

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Three Iraqi planes fired two rockets at residential areas of northern Tehran killing five people early on 12 March, IRNA reported. Iraqi planes also raided Masjed-Soleyman, Khorramabad, Borujerd, Dezful, and Arak, though the agency noted that no further details were available on these attacks. Meanwhile, Iran fired surface-to-surface missiles at "economic installations" in Kirkuk as a warning that "any point" in Iraq could come under Iran's missile attacks, according to the agency. In a separate development, the Iranian Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters announced that "heavy casualties" were inflicted on Iraqi forces during a "successful offensive" on the night of 11-12 March, the agency revealed. An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, asserted that part of the Iranian forces that attempted an offensive through the Hoveyseh marshes was "destroyed or captured."

These developments followed the 11 March Iraqi air and missile attacks against Borujerd, Bakhtaran, and Tabriz in which over 100 people were killed, according to an Iranian communique cited by IRNA. Tehran radio also noted that Iran continued shelling Basra on 11 March. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio confirmed the air attack on Tabriz and announced that an Iranian plane that infiltrated the Al-Fadiliyah area near Baghdad was intercepted by ground forces and forced to flee. The communique also announced that Iraqi planes hit another "large maritime target" in the Gulf on 11 March.

Responding to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's call for attacks on civilian targets to cease, Iran's 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani reaffirmed that Iran will "reciprocate" if Iraq stops its attacks on Iranian cities, since attacking Iraqi cities is "contrary to the will" of Iran, IRNA reported.

Lebanon

IDF Operation — The IDF killed 34 "terrorists" and wounded 7 others during its 11 March operation in Al-Zrariyah, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem

radio. The Israelis arrested dozens of people, including 20 Lebanese army soldiers who were subsequently released, the radio noted. While Jerusalem radio claimed that no villagers were injured in the IDF operation, Beirut radio cited reports of civilian casualties and accused the Israelis of preventing a Red Cross convoy from entering the village to aid the inhabitants. Beirut radio spoke of "fierce hand to hand combat" in the village and also reported a claim by Lebanese military sources that an Israeli tank was damaged and a helicopter was downed. Monitored Israeli media did not mention any such losses and likewise did not confirm Beirut radio's claim that seven IDF soldiers were killed or injured in a handgrenade attack in al-Nabatiyah.

Commenting on the Al-Zrariyah operation in a Jerusalem television interview, IDF Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi stressed that it was not a reaction to the suicide attack near Metulla on 10 March, but was in response to evidence that a force was being prepared in Al-Zrariyah to attack the IDF.

Beirut Security, Politics — Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council, narrowly escaped assassination at the hands of gunmen in Beirut late on 11 March, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. In the Christian eastern sector, the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau unanimously decided to expel Lebanese Forces Mobilization Branch Chief Samir Ja'ja' from the Phalangist Party, according to the radio. In related reports, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio said that Ja'ja' has criticized and threatened the current Phalangist leadership, and has received a declaration of support from Phalangist officials in Kasrawan headed by Joseph Tutunji, the brother of the late Bashir al-Jumayyil's widow.

Western Sahara

A 10 March Saharan Information Ministry statement announced that 21 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 34 were wounded as a result of heavy weapons shelling by the Saharan People's Liberation Army against Moroccan Army positions in the southern Western Sahara on 3 March, APS reported.

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Madrid's EL PAIS Interviews 'Arafat*PAI/10824 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 4 Mar 85 p 4*

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Gianluigi Melega 23 February in Tunis]

[Excerpt] Question: Over the past few weeks there has been considerable diplomatic activity aimed at securing a negotiated solution to the Near East problem. Do you believe a solution of this kind to be possible?

Answer: We are at a rather delicate moment for two reasons: because the superpowers have revived the arms reduction talks and because we have signed the agreement with Jordan, eliminating a source of possible dissension.

Question: You have maintained repeated contacts with European statesmen with a view to the continuation of the negotiations. What exactly do you want from the EEC countries?

Answer: A solemn joint declaration that the Palestinian people have a right to self-determination and to have their own state.

Question: A state or just an autonomous territory?

Answer: A state.

Question: What would be the relationship between that state and Jordan?

Answer: It would be the relationship of a federation between two sovereign states — the Palestinian state and the Jordanian state. This forms part of our agreement with King Husayn.

Question: But what will happen in the Near East in the meantime? How do you assess what is happening now in Lebanon?

Answer: The public must realize that an international conspiracy, a terrible conspiracy, is taking place in Lebanon. It is aimed not only against the Palestinians but also at achieving Lebanon's fragmentation. It is an erupting volcano. I already said so when the Israelis invaded it, but nobody listened to me. Now I am sounding the alarm again; there is a danger of an uncontrolled explosion.

Question: Who is responsible for it?

Answer: It is an Israeli-U.S. conspiracy, with the complicity of some Arab parties.

Question: What do you mean by the word "parties"? Political parties, leaders, countries? Al-Asad's Syrians, Junblatt's Druze, Khomeyni's followers...?

Answer: I prefer to say "parties."

Question: Do you feel any responsibility for what is happening in Lebanon?

Answer: While there was a Palestinian organization in Lebanon, we stopped its fragmentation. We were keeping the evil genie in the bottle. But afterward....

Question: Now that the Israelis are withdrawing, what will the Palestinians in the area do?

Answer: They will struggle as resistance fighters. We form part of the region. Being a Palestinian is like having an identity card, a fighter's card. During our stay in Lebanon we trained everybody for the struggle — men, women, and children. People like Ariel Sharon and other Israeli militarists do not understand this — that the more they oppress us, the more resistance there will be.

Question: Let me try to understand you: Do you believe that you won or that you lost in Lebanon?

Answer: We suffered a severe military setback (and for me, personally, the battle of Tripoli was a bitter and painful experience, with the Arabs shooting at the Palestinians). They won some battles but they lost the war. So much so that they are withdrawing after paying a price which is very high for Israel.

Question: But in the meantime you and your men were expelled from Lebanon.

Answer: Look, we performed three miracles. The first was to have resisted militarily, to have fought alone for 88 days against one of the most powerful war machines currently existing — the fourth-ranking military power in the world if you accept the assessment of the London Institute for Strategic Studies. The second miracle was the reorganization of our structure within a brief space of time. Ronald Reagan and Menachem Begin believed that once they had expelled us from Beirut we would scatter throughout the world in refugee camps. On the contrary, we Palestinians have rebuilt our health, social, scientific, information, economic, and military organizations. At present we have military bases in nine countries, and our units' march-pasts in Aden, Sanaa, Algiers, and Baghdad are proof of our men's readiness and training.

Question: The third miracle?

Answer: The stepping up of resistance actions in the occupied territories. In 1984 we carried out 892 actions in Lebanon, while in the occupied territories we carried out another 351 actions. The daily average tripled in the first month of 1985. We recently undertook six military actions in a single day.... The Israeli militarists are so obtuse that they do not even understand what is written in the Bible, the Gospel, or the Talmud. They do not even understand what General Mordechai Gur replied in 1978 when asked why he did not occupy Tyre: "I am not so stupid as to enter a wasps' nest." Sharon was stupid enough to do so. This is a classic example of the arrogance of power. They made a terrible mistake: They underestimated us.

Question: However, you are now in Tunis.

Answer: No, I am in Amman, a step away from Jerusalem.

Question: Have you ever considered that the Palestinians' cause would have triumphed already if you had used nonviolent means? That you could be for the Palestinians what Gandhi was for India?

Answer: No. To begin with, the Zionists are not the British, and we did not react with weapons for a very long time. From partition in 1948 until 1968 we hoped that the United Nations would support our rights. With what result? In 1982 the United Nations erased the Palestinian question from its political agenda, and our case was discussed by the Subcommittee for Refugees. With our armed resistance we restored to our commitment the image of a struggle against an invader, of a struggle against the Israeli military junta.

Question: But Shimon Peres is a Socialist, the leader of a party belonging to the Socialist International. What do you think of Peres and his socialism?

Answer: His is a mystifying kind of socialism, worse than the policy of his right-wing allies of the Likud party. At least the latter clearly displays an iron fist. Peres hides his in a velvet glove. Unfortunately his fellow members of the Socialist International do not exert enough pressure on him to modify his policy.

Question: What is the nature of your present relations with the Vatican?

Answer: I cannot express how proud we feel to see Pope John Paul II's stance on the Jerusalem issue. We maintain permanent and fruitful contacts with the Vatican at all levels, with permanent channels of communication.

Question: But what can the Vatican do in practice?

Answer: The pope wields huge moral authority. By exercising it he can help everyone find a solution to the problem.

Question: What would you like to see done now to reach an earlier peaceful solution of the Near East problem?

Answer: An international conference under UN auspices, including among its negotiators a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Question: In which case, would you halt your military struggle completely?

Answer: Listen, did they stop the fighting in Vietnam when negotiations started? Did they do so in Algeria? Or in Angola? The armed resistance is motivated by the occupation, not by the negotiations. It is a legitimate right for a nation to take up arms against an occupying power. We are a nation of 8 million people, 60 percent of whom are forced to live as refugees far from their own land. We are at present struggling as the American Indians did when they were attacked by the whites in the last century. How can you expect there to be no resistance?

Question: In your opinion is there any difference between resistance and terrorism? For instance, what is your opinion now of the 1972 Munich massacre?

Answer: I still think the same as I did then. I have always been opposed to that kind of action. But I have also stated that it is officially organized Israeli terrorism that prompts the responses of Palestinian terrorist groups. I have always condemned such actions, whichever side commits them.

Question: An Italian investigating magistrate has issued an arrest warrant against you as an accomplice in the PLO's consignment of a quantity of firearms to an Italian terrorist group, the Red Brigades. How do you answer that?

Answer: I am outraged about it. It is a false and groundless case, since there can be no proof of it; and I find it very strange that this is happening in a friendly country like Italy. In my opinion it is something carried out to undermine what the Italian political leaders and the leaders of the Catholic Church are trying to do to facilitate a solution of the Near East crisis.

Question: In this connection you have to cope with many opponents, including members of your own committee....

Answer: I feel proud of our internal democracy. I was not elected by 99.7 percent of voters. We have an opposition, which I respect. I am convinced that our democracy is one of the cornerstones of our strength.

Question: But some of the people you deal with do not always agree. How can you promise that all Palestinians will honor any agreements you may sign?

Answer: We are certainly not the ones to break agreements. Compare what Israel has done with what we have done. When we left Beirut having signed an agreement with Philip Habib we handed the city over to military contingents of four powers — the United States, France, Italy, and The United Kingdom. They were obliged under the agreement to protect the civilians in the Palestinian camps — and yet the Sabra and Shatila massacre occurred! In 1981 we signed a cease-fire, again with Habib. But Israel violated the cease-fire and invaded Lebanon. You only have to read the news about the United States or even Alexander Haig's memoirs to discover who breaks agreements.

Question: The Soviets have criticized your agreement with King Husayn.

Answer: What you call a criticism was expressed in a newspaper article: There is no official document on the matter. Officially our basic joint document is the document signed by me and by Yuriy Andropov in 1983 following my visit to Moscow — and that document accepts the federation of Jordan and the Palestinian state.

PLO Radio Discusses Relations With USSR, Syria

*JN112008 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1530 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Political commentary: "We and the Soviets"]

[Text] Every Palestinian, on both the official and popular levels, is deeply aware of the importance of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union. This awareness is based on the USSR's importance on the international level and on its firm position toward the Palestinian people's national rights. Hence, the controversy that is raised every now and then on a certain defect in the Palestinian-Soviet relationship requires a clear, definite explanation that will stop those who endeavor to strike at this

relationship and block the path of those who want to fish in muddy waters. The controversy on a certain defect in this relationship is raised by certain sides that are concerned with raising such dramatic, distorted stories. These sides are numerous, but their aims eventually meet on striking at the PLO and casting doubt on its international status, particularly where its traditional friend, the USSR, is concerned.

We, as well as our Soviet friends, are aware of the extent of the U.S. and Zionist interest in distorting and casting doubt on this relationship and its durability. What requires careful consideration is the Damascus regime's stand on this issue — a stand which regrettably meets with the most dangerous and hostile stands.

While the Damascus rulers think that their relationship with the Soviet Union constitutes a progressive cover for their suspect practices against the PLO and the Arab region, we in the PLO view the relationship with the Soviets from a deeper, more responsible, and more comprehensive and appreciative angle. While the Damascus rulers wish and endeavor to drive a wedge between the PLO and Moscow, we appreciate the importance of the Soviet-Syrian relationship and endeavor to make it an asset for the PLO and a wall on which to lean in the steadfast struggle.

Therefore, when differences arose between us and the Damascus authorities, and when it became apparent that the Damascus regime was preparing well-planned, overwhelming disasters for the PLO, we went to our friends in Moscow and asked them in a comradely manner to act and use their weight to end the crisis or limit its expansion.

The Soviet friends did not hesitate to exert concerted, sincere efforts. They did not encounter any obstacle from us, but they encountered numerous obstacles and hurdles from Damascus. We informed our Soviet friends, in all of our meeting with them and on all levels, that we understood their stand vis-a-vis Damascus; and that, nevertheless, we wanted them to continue their efforts.

We offered them support and commitment. We cooperated with them to the extent that we seriously asked them to be arbiters between us. We asked that open discussion take place between us, them, and the Damascus officials in the presence of anyone that the Soviet friends want to attend.

Despite all of this, the Syrians rejected this objective, sincere proposal. On the contrary, they escalated their political, security, and information attacks.

Nevertheless, and despite our awareness of the somewhat embarrassing situation in which our Soviet friends find themselves — facing as they do a crisis of relations between the Syrian regime and the PLO — we can say that the Syrian regime's role in this regard requires careful attention, if not extreme caution.

With all our awareness and with responsibility toward ourselves, our cause, and our friends, we say that we care very much for our friendship. We are concerned that this friendship should remain deep, strong, and stable, particularly with a great friend.

PNC Speaker Declines To Visit FRG for Health Reasons *JN111000 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Mar 85 P 17*

[Text] Amman, *SAWT AL-SHA'B* — PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has declined a government invitation to visit the FRG. Shaykh al-Sa'ih declined for health reasons.

DFLP Official Cited on Husayn-'Arafat Accord *GF111430 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 10 Mar 85 p 3*

[Nabil al-Nammurah report]

[Excerpt] A Palestinian official has called on those who reject the Husayn-'Arafat accord within the Fatah Central Committee and Fatah cadres who had bet on the introduction of amendments into the accord to support its cancellation after King Husayn declared his rejection of any amendments to it, and to close the doors before the moves of the Egyptian president in order to get out of the present Palestinian impasse and to begin a comprehensive dialogue to achieve Palestinian national unity and preserve PLO unity and the rights of the Palestinian people.

In a statement to *AL-ANBA'*, Abu Layla, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), demanded all Palestinian forces and factions which reject the Amman accord and the initiative of Husni Mubarak to unite their ranks on the basis of overthrowing the accord and closing doors in front of the moves of the Egyptian president and the Jordanian king which are hurrying in the direction of U.S. solutions.

Abu Layla said that the Palestinian situation is moving into a dangerous impasse following the signing of the Husayn-'Arafat accord which constituted a crossing of the red lines and a destruction of the national common denominator among the factions of the revolution. If this accord is not cancelled, then all previous efforts to restore PLO unity will end in failure and collapse and the way before it will be totally shut.

He added that it has become clear that this accord is meant to be an introduction to a Jordanian-Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. move to find a settlement to the Palestinian question within the framework of Camp David. The current controversy around some of the words and phrases in the accord does not mean much. As the DFLP emphasized since the first day of the announcement of the accord, it has had to be an authorization document to King Husayn to move along the course of settlement with the Israeli enemy under the pretext of restoring the land. The Mubarak initiative proves this, since it stems from the accord and the tacit authorization to Jordan that it includes calling for the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation containing the pro-Jordan, reactionary elements in the West Bank and Gaza, and excluding the PLO.

This delegation must hold negotiations with the Americans and the Israelis to arrive at a settlement formula. An international conference will then be called on to dedicate and proclaim it. This means that the PLO, on the one hand, and the USSR on the other, are merely required to be false witnesses to this deal which will be struck under U.S. patronage.

PLO's Milhim Condemns Iranian Shelling*JN101040 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 10 Mar 85*

[Excerpt] Amman, 10 Mar (INA) — The PLO has condemned the Iranian shelling of populated Iraqi towns. In a statement to INA here today, PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim said that the Iranian rulers' indiscriminate shelling of innocent civilians in Iraq is a miserable action expressing these rulers' bankruptcy in the real battlefield.

He added: Our Palestinian Arab people view the Iraqi-Iranian war and insistence on continuing it as a basic part of the plot against our Palestinian people's cause. He stressed that the absence of Iraq's military and economic action has exposed the Palestinian revolution to the imperialist-Zionist conspiratorial and liquidatory attempts aimed at splitting our Arab nation's unity.

'Joint Forces' Operations in South Lebanon*JN081805 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 8 Mar 85*

[Text] The heroes of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces continue to escalate their armed operations against personnel and equipment of the Zionist invasion forces and their agents in occupied southern Lebanon, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment despite the campaigns of suppression and annihilation carried out by the Zionist invasion forces against innocent citizens in the towns and villages of the occupied south.

At dawn today the heroes of the joint forces attacked a Zionist military position near Bidyas in occupied southern Lebanon. The attack, which was carried out with rockets and automatic weapons, resulted in killing or wounding several Zionist soldiers. Also this morning the heroes of the joint forces attacked a Zionist military patrol east of Tyre. The attack, carried out with automatic weapons and rockets, resulted in destroying a Zionist military truck and killing or wounding its occupants. Again this morning, the joint forces attacked two military positions belonging to the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon in Al-Nabatiyah and Kafrah. Several elements in the two agent positions were killed or wounded.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operations but, as usual, refrained from mentioning his losses or those of the agent forces. He said his forces and the militias immediately mounted large-scale search-and-arrest campaigns against the heroes of the joint forces, but all this was in vain.

At dawn yesterday the heroes of the joint forces attacked with automatic weapons and rockets a Zionist military patrol on the road between the villages of Al-'Ayshiyah and Al-Rihan in the Jazzin district in occupied southern Lebanon. One half-track was destroyed and another was damaged and the occupants were killed or wounded. Also yesterday morning the heroes of the joint forces attacked a Zionist military patrol near the village of Shukin in the Tyre district in occupied southern Lebanon. The attack, carried out with automatic weapons and rockets, resulted in destroying a Zionist jeep and killing or wounding its occupants.

The Zionist military spokesman admitted the two operations but refrained from disclosing his losses. He said that his forces immediately stormed the villages of Al-Rihan, carried out large-scale arrest campaign, and detailed a large number of citizens on the pretext of searching for the heroes of the joint forces, who returned safely to their bases.

The heroes of the joint forces yesterday executed the death sentence in Sidon against an agent who collaborated with the Zionist forces. Reports said that the heroes of the joint forces led Walid al-Yamani to the town center of Sidon and hung a placard around his neck saying: This is the fate of agents. They then shot him dead.

Attack Patrol Near Tyre*JN091753 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Mar 85*

[Text] The heroes of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces have attacked a Zionist patrol near Al-Qasimiyah bridge north of Tyre in occupied southern Lebanon. The attack, which was carried out with machineguns, killed or wounded all personnel of the Zionist patrol.

The enemy army command admitted this daring attack and claimed that only five of its soldiers were wounded. The enemy command added that its forces cordoned off the area and launched a campaign to search for the joint forces men. However, these attempts were in vain.

Attack Positions Near Al-Nabatiyah*JN101654 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1606 GMT 10 Mar 85*

[Text] The heroes of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces attacked two positions belonging to the Zionist forces and the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon near Al-Nabatiyah in occupied southern Lebanon yesterday. The attack, which was carried out with machineguns and rockets, killed or wounded a number of the personnel in the Zionist and agent positions.

The Zionist military spokesman admitted the two operations, and said that his forces immediately launched large-scale arrest and search campaigns for the heroes of the joint forces. However, these attempts were in vain.

Detonate Car Near Metullah*JN111729 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese forces' heroes continue to escalate their operations against the personnel and vehicles of the Zionist invasion forces and their agents in southern Lebanon. They are inflicting further losses in men and equipment, despite the savage, repressive measures the Zionist invasion forces and their agents are taking against innocent citizens in southern Lebanon.

In one of the most daring operations, the joint forces heroes detonated a booby-trapped car in a Zionist military convoy near Metullah on the Palestinian-Lebanese borders, killing more than 15 Zionist soldiers and seriously injuring more than 33 others.

Attack Tyre Interrogation Centers

*JN111737 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] Using machineguns and rockets, the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters attacked a Zionist interrogation center in Tyre, southern Lebanon. The center was heavily damaged, and a number of Zionist soldiers were either killed or wounded. The joint forces heroes also attacked a Zionist military center north of Tyre, inflicting a number of Zionist casualties.

The Zionist military spokesman admitted the two operations, and added that his forces immediately began a search-and-arrest campaign. The Zionist forces arrested many citizens, imposed a curfew on Tyre, and threatened to kill anyone who dared to violate the curfew.

Palestinian Source Claims Ashdod Bus Explosion

*JN111720 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] A Palestinian military spokesman has announced the following: A group of our heroic fighters operating inside the occupied homeland detonated a highly explosive charge in a Zionist bus carrying a number of Zionist soldiers and settlers while it was passing in Ashdod, south of Tel Aviv, today. The bus was completely destroyed, and a number of Zionist soldiers and settlers were either killed or wounded.

The enemy radio admitted the operation but, as usual, refrained from revealing Zionist losses. It said that Zionist forces immediately besieged the area, launched a large-scale search campaign, and arrested about 50 Palestinian citizens.

Fedayeen Attack Israeli Vehicle Near Hebron

*JN101646 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1606 GMT
10 Mar 85*

[Text] Our hero revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland continue to escalate their armed operations against the Zionist occupation forces' vehicles and personnel, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment on them, in accordance with the revolution command's instructions and decisions to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main arena of struggle.

A Palestinian military spokesman has stated that a group of our revolutionaries used incendiary bombs to attack a Zionist military vehicle traveling in Al-Zahiriyyah, near Hebron, in the occupied West Bank this morning. The attack burned the vehicle, and killed or wounded a number of Zionist soldiers.

Zionist enemy radio admitted the operation but, as usual, declined to mention losses. It said that its forces immediately imposed a curfew on Al-Zahiriyyah, launched a large-scale search campaign, and arrested a large number of Palestinians on the pretext of having connection with the operation.

Fedayeen Detonate Charges Near Hebron

*JN091716 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
9 Mar 85*

[Text] Our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland continue to escalate their daring operations against the Zionist occupation forces in accordance with the revolution command's instructions and decisions to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main arena of struggle.

A Palestinian military spokesman said that a group of our revolutionaries detonated remote-controlled charges under a Zionist military vehicle traveling on a military road between the (Bayt Maji) settlement and the occupied city of Hebron. The spokesman added that the explosion destroyed the vehicle, killing or wounding the enemy soldiers in it. Zionist forces immediately cordoned off the area, launched a large-scale search campaign, and arrested a large number of Palestinians on the pretext of interrogating them.

ICO Leader Appeals for End to Iran-Iraq Shelling

LD092211 Riyadh SPA in English 1923 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Jeddah, March 9, SPA — Sharifuddin Pirzada, secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, today appealed to Iraq and Iran to cease immediately shelling civilian targets and installations.

In a statement issued in Jeddah today, Pirzada said the current escalation in hostilities between the two Moslem countries represented a big concern for the Islamic world adding [words indistinct] hostilities we are mounting a dangerous threat not only for peace in the region but also for the Islamic solidarity and unity.

He urged Tehran and Baghdad to abide by resolutions adopted by the 15th Islamic foreign ministers conference held in Sanaa in 1984, which called for end of hostilities between them and to seek an honorable and just solution of the Gulf War.

KUWAIT

Amir Sends Condolences on Chernenko's Death*LD111651 Kuwait KUNA in English 1452 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] Kuwait, March 11 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir sent a cable of condolence to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the death of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

Amir Calls for 'Rationalized Economic Policy'*GF111435 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 10 Mar 85 pp 1, 5*

[Article by ARAB TIMES staff]

[Text] In a tough and realistic appraisal of the Kuwait economy, HH the amir yesterday called for a rationalized economic policy aimed at achieving lasting growth rather than "temporary remedies."

He told the new session of the National Assembly that Kuwait now faced new circumstances under which there was no permanent flow of funds. What was now needed was an economic policy aimed at achieving broad-based, long-lasting growth rather than "adopting temporary measures that resulted in temporary remedies." He was referring to an end to the oil boom and calling for a reappraisal of Kuwait's future needs.

In the amiri speech, read by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, he said: "The time has passed when some speculated that money alone was enough to promote society and that oil alone was enough to cover our needs." The amir said Kuwait would seek to maintain the level of its service, particularly health, education and social security, and would also, under its civil service reform programme, boost the productivity of workers and equip them to cope with the "more complex and sophisticated development stage."

The amiri speech, which outlines domestic and foreign policies, said Kuwait would redouble its efforts to end the Gulf war, along with other GCC states. "Kuwait has moved to end the war, cooperating with its sister countries in the GCC and with a number of other Arab and friendly states, and the government will double these efforts," he said. "The Iran-Iraq war constitutes a danger to the entire region. We will continue to bring it to a halt."

In his brief opening address, the amir warned that Kuwait faced "very critical, delicate times." The amiri speech listed independence and sovereignty, commitment to the Arab and Islamic world and a non-aligned stance towards the superpowers as the pillars on which the country's foreign policy would be built. The amir said Kuwait would reject alliances with the superpowers, who were involved in a "terrifying arms race, dominating the interests of smaller states and controlling their will."

He reiterated Kuwait's support for the Palestinian cause and said the time had come for an "honest" look at Arab realities and

expectations in solving the Middle East crisis. Attempts to resolve the problem should rise above inter-Arab differences, and pinpoint priorities for joint action, he said.

He said Kuwait would continue to develop its "defence and combat capabilities" through diversified sources of arms.

The amir said Kuwait would pay special attention to the consolidation of relations with its sister GCC states, and the consolidation of the GCC itself "because it is the natural and necessary frame for defending interests, coordinating efforts, protecting the security of the region and achieving prosperity with its confines."

Calling for cooperation between the Assembly and the government, he said: "We are partners aboard one vessel and we all shoulder the responsibility of adequately catering to Kuwait and the interests of Kuwaitis." "Unity and solidarity call on us to exchange opinions and consultations and cooperate in an atmosphere of amicability, fraternity and solidarity," he said.

Warning against fanaticism and the formation of blocs and party groupings, he said Kuwait should learn a lesson from other countries, which were "infected with fanaticism and blocs, which drew them into serious danger, infringing on their integrity and freedom and paralysing their march towards progress."

The amir said the government believed that cooperation among constitutional bodies was, and still is, the cornerstone of the democratic process and "will exert all efforts to maintain the vitality and stability of the democratic practice."

ARAB TIMES on Husayn-Mubarak Meeting*GF081558 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 7 Mar 85 p 8*

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Land Is More Important Than Postures"]

[Text] If those who have been dealing with the Palestine question seek only political positions, then the meeting of King Husayn and President Mubarak will not help to solve the question and will thus benefit nobody.

If King Husayn is not authorised to deal with the Palestine question, then Israel, backed by its foreign diplomatic force, will be able to hamper any Arab progress in the international arena. Until now, Israel has given a completely different picture of Arab demands so that world public opinion now believes the Arabs do not want peace with Israel.

It also still thinks that only Israel is searching for security. This is evident from the fact that Egypt was punished by the Arabs when it made a peace accord with Israel, and some people were even pleased when President al-Sadat was assassinated.

The world knows few other details of the true situation, neither does it realise the real objectives of Israel. This is because Israel is more active and influential in shaping world opinion than are the Arabs.

We should therefore not fight over who should represent the Palestinians if we want to obtain some of our rights by using the present opportunity for increased world understanding. We should accept now that the Palestine we seek will not be returned, and that part which can be restored now is what we rejected many years ago. Then, we regarded those willing to accept the settlement as traitors.

The whole of Palestine will not be restored, and we should return to the step-by-step policy. We called President Bourguiba of Tunisia a traitor for proposing such a policy years ago. The part of Palestine which may be restored is that part about which the Khartoum Arab summit issued the famous "three Nos," namely, no peace talks with Israel, no recognition of Israel, and no submission. What was needed were six Nos, but we could think of only three. We must now carefully use the opportunity provided by the new developments if we seriously want to restore some Arab rights. And we should not fight over the distribution of the wealth of a land which had not yet been restored because of our own shortcomings.

The King Husayn-President Mubarak meeting will yield results only if the Palestinians appreciate the importance of the present situation and bear in mind that our goal should be land not postures.

AL-QABAS: Foreign Ministry Warns Against Terrorists
GF101406 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 9 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has warned our diplomatic missions abroad against terrorist groups whose members are trying to enter the country by obtaining entry visas. The members of the groups are about 20, and they are of Arab and non-Arab nationalities and have received high-level training. Information available to *AL-QABAS* indicates that the Foreign Ministry's warning includes the description and photos of these terrorists.

QATAR

Reportage on Visit to Turkey by Amir

For reportage on the visit to Turkey by Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, including his talks with Turkish President Kenan Evren and the signing of economic and cultural agreements between the two countries, see the Turkey section of the 12 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

Heir Apparent Receives ROK Envoy
GF101610 Manama WAKH in English 1533 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Doha, 10 Mar (WAKH) — Qatari Crown Prince and Deputy Amir Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani received a message addressed to HH the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani from South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan. The message was delivered by Korean Sports Minister Dr Lee Young-ho during his reception by Shaykh Hamad today. The meeting reviewed means of promoting cooperation between Qatar and Korea in sports and youth fields.

The Korean minister arrived here yesterday. He is touring several Arab countries.

AL-RAYAH Urges Further Efforts To Stop Gulf War
GF091938 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Manama, March 9 (GNA) — Qatari daily *AL-RAYAH* urged today the world countries and organizations to exert double efforts to convince Iraq and Iran to stop the shelling of civilian targets and respect the agreement they reached through the United Nations.

AL-RAYAH added that the shelling of cities at this particular time is regarded as some sort of political despair and stressed that Iraq has repeatedly expressed readiness to negotiate to stem the bloodshed and stop this war which all Gulf, Islamic and international efforts failed to put an end to it.

The paper added that dangers out of the present escalation stemmed from the fact that it is coincided with the war of tankers which started seriously at the beginning of this year, the matter which threatened the widening of military operations to include [words indistinct] interfere with the pretext of protecting their interests.

The paper stressed the role of the Security Council to stop this war saying that this will not be brought about unless the two superpowers reached an agreement to put a peaceful end to this war.

UAE

Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Ambassador
GF101612 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Mar (WAKH) — UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah conferred here today with George Quincey Lunsden, American ambassador to the UAE.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations, the developments in the Gulf region, particularly that of the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in the Middle East, particularly that of Lebanon and the developments of the Palestinian issue in the light of the recent Jordanian-Palestinian accord.

AL-KHALIJ Views Beirut Explosion, U.S. Role
GF101310 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 10 Mar 85 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Facts Indict"]

[Text] At the beginning of April last year (1984), U.S. President Ronald Reagan approved what is called "the plan to combat terrorism," which — among other things — includes the use of force and abortive strikes against "terrorists." It also commissioned 26 U.S. agencies and offices abroad to gather information on the "possible terrorist plans".

This fact is not derived from a "malicious" source. It was mentioned by the *LOS ANGELES TIMES* newspaper, which also said that since the explosion at the Marines headquarters in Beirut on 23 October 1983, and since the defeat of Reagan's policy in Lebanon, the U.S. Administration has been searching for the way to reply to what had taken place.

On 11 December, British parliamentary sources disclosed that the question of retaliatory reply to what they called the organizations of "international terrorism" headed the agenda of the talks between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Geoffrey Howe, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs.

On 9 December, former U.S. under secretary Lawrence Eagleberger told one of the television networks that Washington put an end to the contradicting opinions in the administration concerning the policy of "replying to terrorism," and that it is not possible "for Washington from now on to allow the death of its citizens without retribution."

We recall these facts which were previously published and also note: Washington considers any action against its policies and against its ally Israel to be official terrorism that has to be confronted with all means.

Washington considers the valiant struggle by the Lebanese national resistance against the Zionist occupation to be violence and terrorism, and it stands against the world's denunciation of the savage practices of its ally in southern Lebanon.

Washington, "the merciful heart bearer" and the protector of "human rights," which exports lists that classify countries as "terrorist" and "nonterrorist," and Washington, whose skin shivers at the mere groaning of a Jew in the Soviet Union or for the dissatisfaction of a worker in Poland, and who always rushes to denounce the fedayeen operations in the occupied Arab territories if they accidentally hit some civilians; this Washington did not "care" to announce through any of the administration's spokesmen in their daily conferences its objection to the massacre which occurred in western Beirut and whose victims now total 75 killed and 256 wounded.

We cannot, and we are not in a position to indict Washington and accuse it of being responsible for the explosion, although the victims of the explosion hold Washington responsible. Facts, however, do indict Washington; for it makes no difference whether its Israeli agents or its agents in Lebanon are the ones who perpetrated the massacre. Washington's policy in Lebanon and in the Arab homeland produces nothing but the fall of victims and the increase of violence.

One last point remains and is difficult to explain. How and why did two units of the 6th Fleet move at high speed toward Lebanon just about 24 hours prior to the Beirut massacre? And how can we explain the statement of the U.S. official spokesman that those two units would be on alert to evacuate U.S. citizens should this become a necessity?!

AL-ITTIHAD on Lebanese Resistance, Gulf War

GF110827 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 11 Mar (WAM) — The UAE newspaper *AL-ITTIHAD* has lauded editorially the audacious suicide operation executed yesterday by the Lebanese resistance. The paper said that the Lebanese resistance violently and courageously deals blows every day, as heroes expire either in fedayeen operations or as a result of the terrorist Zionist practices.

The paper continued: "The immaculate blood imbues the soil of Lebanon for the sake of restoring the national sovereignty over the occupied territories. This blood is shed for a great goal and receives the respect and backing of the whole world."

The paper added that at the same time, other dear blood is shed along the Iraq-Iran borders and in the cities of the two countries. The paper asked why the bloodshed continues between the two countries while Tehran and Baghdad — as well as other Arabs and Muslims — believe that the issue of the liberation of Jerusalem is more worthy of this immaculate blood, believe that the issue of construction and development in both countries should use these arms loaded with weapons, and believe that the issue of the liberation of Jerusalem is a holy issue and the major jihad.

The paper expressed the hope that the Arab, Islamic, and international mediations will make moves in an atmosphere welcomed by the two warring sides stressing that the two sides will attain genuine victory when they halt this war.

AL-WAHDAH Denounces U.S.-Israeli Trade Agreement

GF090725 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 9 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 9 Mar (WAM) — In its editorial today, a local newspaper condemns the blatant U.S. stand in continuously and unconditionally supporting the Israeli enemy at a time when most Arab leaders are urging the U.S. Administration to enhance the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

The newspaper *AL-WAHDAH* expresses disappointment over the U.S. signing of the agreement to establish a free trade zone with Israel. "This decision is in open defiance of all those who go to the White House in the hopes of finding a serious U.S. move to support the settlement and implement the proposed plans to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict," the paper says.

The paper notes that this U.S. decision, which is aimed at saving the Israeli economy, "is made directly to consolidate Israel's military capabilities to continue its plans for aggression and expansion against the Arabs." The paper adds that the U.S. signing of the agreement with Israel at this particular time means "that the present U.S. Administration intends to convey to Arab officials, in action and not in words, that it totally backs Israel against the Arab side in the conflict. It has also dashed all hopes that President Reagan would be more flexible during his second and last term in dealing with the Arabs." Concluding, the newspaper asks: For how long will a united Arab stand be absent?

The absence of such a stand and reaction is the reason why Israel and the United States are taking such actions, the paper says.

PDRY

Chairman 'Ali Receives USSR Ambassador

GF102000 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
10 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, received in his office today Comrade Vladislav Pelrovich Zhukov, the USSR ambassador in Aden.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues that are of mutual interest to the two parties and the peoples of the two friendly countries. They also reviewed the progress of the projects which are being carried out in the PDRY with the help of the friendly USSR.

The brother secretary general expressed his happiness at the development of bilateral relations in various fields. They also exchanged views on the developments of the situation in the Arab region.

Chairman Receives Lebanese CP Official

GF102002 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
10 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, received in his office today Brother Nadim 'Abd al-Samad, member of the Political Bureau of the Lebanese Communist Party, who informed him of the developments of the situation on the Lebanese arena and the heroic role of the Lebanese national resistance in order to end Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory.

During the meeting, the brother secretary general expressed the pride that the Yemeni people take in the successes which the Lebanese national forces have achieved in order to liberate Sidon from the Zionist forces. He reiterated the support of the YSP and the PDRY for the struggle of the Lebanese nationalist forces.

YAR

President Sends Condolence Cable to Soviet Leaders

GF112002 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT
11 Mar 85

["Text" of condolence cable sent by Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress,

to the Soviet leaders on the death of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko — date of cable not given]

[Text] Comrade members of the CPSU Politburo and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium: With great sorrow, I received the news of the death of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

On my behalf and on behalf of the state, government, people, and the General People's Congress in the YAR, I express to you and to the friendly Soviet people, our warm condolences on the death of a leader whom we have known as a friend and a wise leader of the friendly Soviet people.

We wish the friendly Soviet Union continued prosperity and flourishing. We also wish continued development of the relations between our countries in order to achieve the joint interests of our friendly countries and to serve the issues of peace, freedom and development in the world.

We hope that you will extend our condolences to his family. I repeat my condolences and ask you to accept my great respect.

[Signed] Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Government Appeals For End to Iraq-Iran War

GF110419 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT
10 Mar 85

[Text] An official source has made the following statement: The YAR Government is following with great concern the grave escalation of the Iraq-Iran war, the resulting attacks on population centers, and the loss of lives of innocent people in the two Muslim countries, which only benefit the Muslim nation's enemies.

The YAR Government appeals to the Iraqi and Iranian Governments to quickly and promptly halt this serious escalation to spare lives and preserve the two countries' energies in order to face the aggression of the Zionist enemy against Muslim holy places.

The Zionist enemy is carrying out his aggressive war against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

While appealing to officials in Iraq and Iran, the YAR Government calls on all Muslim countries to make efforts to stop this regrettable war, which only benefits the Muslim nation's enemies.

Mubarak Meets With U.S. Jewish Leaders*NC120825 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0215 GMT 12 Mar 85*

[Text] Washington, 11 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with representatives of the Presidential Council of Jewish organizations led by (Kenneth Palkin), current president of American Jewish organizations, in Washington this evening. MENA has learned that President Mubarak used the meeting to explain Egypt's role in the overall plan to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region. The president emphasized that Egypt, as an Arab state, respects its agreements. The president replied to questions from members of the Presidential Council of Jewish Organizations on the Middle East. The majority of these dealt with the Palestinian and Lebanese issues and the Tabah problem. MENA has also learned that the president explained Egypt's initiative in this field and its link to the peace sought by the region's states. During the meeting, President Mubarak said that Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, a solution to the Tabah problem, and efforts to resolve the Palestinian question will have a great impact on the achievement of a comprehensive peace in the area.

MENA has also discovered that the president dealt with economic conditions and Egypt's efforts to achieve economic and social development for the benefit of its people and to raise their standard of living. During the meeting, the president emphasized that, on the basis of Egypt's development program, it is important for the United States, as a friend, to provide aid and support. This, in turn, will allow Egypt to forge ahead and achieve the comprehensive development that will bring about economic and social stability. After the session, President Husni Mubarak told Egyptian journalists that he used the meeting to explain Egypt's position on Middle East issues, Egyptian-Israeli contacts, and the possibility of solving the problem.

Abd Al-Majid on Mubarak Meetings in WashingtonNC120826 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 12 Mar 85*

[Text] Washington, 12 Mar (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid stated that President Husni Mubarak's meetings yesterday were important and necessary to explain to the U.S. party the Egyptian viewpoint on holding a dialogue between the United States and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. In statements last night to Egyptian journalists in Washington, the foreign minister said that these meetings gave the U.S. party the opportunity to understand the Middle East situation and the present trend toward peace. He added that the U.S. party showed interest in the president's explanation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, in which he stressed that the unified Arab stand has become clear to everyone following the Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement.

On Egyptian-U.S. relations the foreign minister said that bilateral relations had been reviewed and that the U.S. party had listened to the Egyptian view on an increase in military and economic assistance.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said a letter of exchange on investments was signed between Egypt and the United States yesterday. The letter was signed on Egypt's behalf by Planning Minister Dr

Kamal al-Janzuri and on the U.S. side by William Brock, the permanent U.S. trade representative. He added that on the basis of this letter, the difficulties now facing investors will be removed which will encourage U.S. investments in Egypt.

On President Mubarak's meetings with U.S. officials yesterday, Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid said the president first met with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. He then received Treasury Secretary James Baker and the economic delegation, which included William Brock; Lionel Oliner, under secretary for international trade in the Commerce Department; Assistant Secretary of State William Murphy; and Jay Morris, deputy administrator at the Agency for International Development.

The foreign minister added that President Mubarak then met with the Presidential Council of Jewish Organizations and later with a number of black Congress members. These meetings were an opportunity for the president to explain the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and his ideas on this matter. 'Abd al-Majid said that the president also met with World Bank Chairman Clausen yesterday.

Information Minister on Mubarak Visits*NC110505 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Mar 85*

[Text] Washington, 10 Mar (MENA) — Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif told MENA today that President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States comes at a very important moment in the history of the Palestinian issue. President Mubarak is in the United States for the first time since the Jordanians and Palestinians reached the 11 February agreement, which Egypt supports and which President Mubarak will discuss with the U.S. Administration. The visit also comes after President Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan met in Al-Ghurdaqah.

Al-Sharif affirmed that all aspects of the Middle East conflict are of great importance in President Mubarak's discussions. He pointed out that President Mubarak has raised certain proposals and ideas to give impetus to the agreement, thus breaking the stagnation in the situation regarding the Palestinian issue so that a dialogue can begin and so that the United States can carry out an influential role at the beginning of the dialogue with both Jordan and the Palestinians.

The Egyptian information minister said that this visit to the United States is very important and comes at a turning point in the Palestinian issue. He said that President Mubarak is visiting the United States after a clear agreement was reached on 11 February between the Jordanians and the Palestinians. It is the first time that the parties concerned have put the United States before its responsibilities as a superpower and as a partner in the peace progress. The United States must maintain the march for a comprehensive and just peace and for achieving the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Al-Sharif stressed that this agreement represents an important, positive step and that the U.S. Administration's reactions have been positive.

Regarding the current Arab position, Al-Sharif said that Egypt's policy is clear and that President Mubarak has stressed the talks

with the Arab brothers. There is no doubt that the declared and undeclared Arab positions are moderate in relation to these efforts. He added that the position of the main parties concerned, namely, Jordan and the Palestinians, is positive and represents a new step and a serious stand for the first time. It is also a response to President Mubarak's call for the Palestinians to submit their ideas and proposals.

Regarding what is now required from the United States, Al-Sharif said that serious action is needed to provide an impetus to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and to initiate a dialogue between Jordan, the Palestinians, and the United States.

On the Middle East problem, Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak's trip is not limited to the United States, but includes France and Britain. It began with a visit to France where the president had constructive and positive discussions with French President Francois Mitterrand to create a European role, since France is influential within the EC. Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak will visit Britain and will meet with Prime Minister Thatcher. The British Government has welcomed the Egyptian proposals. Egypt is exerting its efforts in both European and American circles.

Al-Sharif added that Egypt has been active in various fields to bring about a united Arab stand and has also been active in Africa during the visits by several African leaders to Egypt. President Mubarak's discussions with African leaders noted support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. President Mubarak's talks with the Senegalese president in Egypt recently affirmed support for the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement of 11 February. Al-Sharif also said that Egypt has been active at the level of nonaligned states. Al-Sharif said that Egypt will maintain its efforts at various levels to bring about a solution to the Middle East issue. President Mubarak declared several times that Egypt will not abandon the Palestinian issue and that since 1948, Egypt has undertaken this issue and has constantly sought to break the stagnation in order to arrive at a comprehensive solution.

Al-Sharif concluded his statements by saying that Egypt is not monopolizing the efforts to achieve the Arab nation's higher interests and that President Mubarak has declared that he welcomes any initiative which gives momentum to the efforts for a solution to the Palestinian issue.

Al-Sharif praised Egyptian-U.S. relations, describing them as distinguished, and said that Egypt's political and economic efforts are appreciated.

Reportage on Media Reaction to Mubarak Trip

Sunday Commentaries Approve Discussions
 NC100757 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 9 Mar (MENA) — Commentaries in the Sunday editions of Egyptian newspapers are unanimous in viewing the importance of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's upcoming discussions with U.S. President Ronald Reagan for giving momentum to the Middle East peace process. The papers say that

U.S. credibility will be put to a critical test during these discussions as regards U.S. commitment to establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region and its relations with Egypt and the moderate Arab states.

AL-AKHBAR calls on the U.S. Administration to look specifically at U.S. national interests, for a wider peace in the region is not only in the interests of the United States and the West, but in the interest of world peace in general. *AL-AKHBAR* also points out that peace and stability in the Middle East definitely guarantee protection of vital U.S. interests in the area. Concluding its commentary, the paper says that new factors in the Middle East give the U.S. Administration a new historical opportunity to bring about peace in the area, an opportunity which might not rise again.

AL-JUMHURIYAH calls on the United States to assume its full responsibility in the peace process. It says that any justification given by the United States for not undertaking a more active role in the peace process and the search for a comprehensive and just settlement can only mean an evasion of responsibility. This would subsequently lead to a loss of confidence in the United States and a decline in its credibility as a fundamental partner in efforts to establish peace. *AL-JUMHURIYAH* notes that the pretext on the part of some international parties that no clear Arab stance exists on which efforts for settlement can be based is no longer valid now that this stand has been manifested by the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and Egyptian views. The paper affirms that Mubarak's discussions with U.S. President Ronald Reagan will focus on the need to create a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which is regarded as a fundamental point if tangible steps for settling the Middle East conflict are to begin.

AL-AHRAM affirms that the road to peace is not an easy one and that Middle East peace will not be achieved in one or even several quick leaps. President Mubarak, the paper stresses, has put Arabs on the beginning of the road to an honorable peace. The paper says: "We are not asking Arab states to support President Mubarak's action inasmuch as we are asking them to support the formula which the Palestinians have proposed, approved, and accepted for solving their problem."

Discussion Topics Previewed

NC101324 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT
 10 Mar 85

[Text] Our radio team in Washington has learned that President Mubarak will underline the need to reactivate the peace process in the Middle East in his talks with the U.S. president. He also will try to familiarize himself with the U.S. viewpoint regarding the participation of Palestinians in a joint delegation with Jordanians. This delegation will begin a dialogue with the U.S. Administration as a practical step toward achieving a comprehensive settlement in the region. President Mubarak will reaffirm Cairo's insistence on the need for an overall solution to the Middle East problem. Such a solution must take into consideration the Palestinian people's rights and the need for Palestinian participation in any future activity aimed at establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The radio team in Washington reports that President Mubarak will ask the U.S. Administration to increase its aid to Egypt by an additional \$860 million this year. He will also discuss with U.S. officials the cancellation of military debts or the scheduling of these debts in a way that will not affect the size of U.S. aid to Egypt. As the U.S. Administration knows, Egypt benefits from this aid which is used to support the 5-year development projects, especially those projects which raise the standard of living.

Mubarak-Reagan Summit Viewed

NC120836 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT
12 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, *AL-AHRAM* comments on support in the People's Assembly for all of President Husni Mubarak's steps and efforts to establish a comprehensive peace and to solve the Palestinian problem. It writes: The People's Assembly, with all the parties in it, has expressed its full confidence in the president on all matters concerning Egyptian-U.S. relations. The paper stresses that this decision shows Egypt's true mettle, which always appears at critical times, during crises, and in difficult circumstances. Egypt's interests take precedence over all partisan considerations and the national interest comes before all sectarian aims.

The paper adds: Today's scheduled summit meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Reagan is the focus of the entire world's attention. It is the first summit since President Reagan's overwhelming reelection victory. Despite this overwhelming victory, Congress continues to oppose some of President Reagan's plans and to express reservations on a number of his policies. Thus, it is wrong to believe that the U.S. President's landslide victory will give him a free hand in foreign policy.

AL-AHRAM highlights the fact that Zionist influence is still strong in Congress, as it is in many other U.S. institutions. We must be aware of the extent of the Jewish lobby's influence on U.S. decisionmaking. This is why President Mubarak will find it difficult to convince President Reagan, Congress, and the American public of the need for PLO representation on the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that should be opening talks with the United States in the near future.

Under the headline "A Decisive Test of U.S. Intentions," *AL-JUMHURIYAH* writes: The important meeting between President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and President Ronald Reagan will take place today in Washington. This session follows a series of meetings yesterday between the president and a number of senior U.S. Administration officials. The paper says that today's talks will center on the issue of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. President Mubarak will present a complete picture of Egypt's views on the peace process in the wake of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. His exposition will include Egypt's ideas on reactivating the peace process. Before the meeting, President Mubarak said that we don't expect any immediate U.S. reaction, but that we are talking and waiting. We are trying to convince them, and the results will appear later.

The paper expresses its belief that the results of the meeting will be a strong indicator of U.S. intentions toward the peace process. This is particularly true given past U.S. participation in this process. It adds: It is unrealistic to believe that active U.S. intervention in the peace process will solve the Middle East problem in 24 hours. However, the United States can do a great deal toward making tangible progress on the road to a settlement in view of its strong and special relations with Israel, and its friendship with other parties in the region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that there are inherent motives for an active U.S. role. These include its many interests in the region, which would be threatened if the U.S. position remained biased in favor of Israel's intransigent views and its outlook on the region. These interests would also suffer if its evaluation of ongoing developments in the region continued through the Israeli perspective.

Under the headline "A Word of Truth," *AL-AKHBAR* writes: Despite the anti-Egyptian campaign launched by a limited number of congressmen on the occasion of President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington, the U.S. press published analyses by well-known writers yesterday which defended Egypt's leading role in efforts on behalf of peace, democracy, and development. According to these analyses by prominent U.S. journalists, President Mubarak's attempt to strengthen and reactivate the peace process is the most significant one to appear in recent years. The paper stresses that what U.S. writers said on Egypt's position was appropriate. However, the fact that Egypt does not bargain, outbid, or pursue contradictory policies is more important. Egypt, for example, has three stated conditions for the return of its ambassador to Israel. These are: A solution to the Tabah issue, Israel's complete withdrawal from Lebanon, and the achievement of progress in the Palestinian problem. No amount of pressure will force Egypt to drop these conditions.

The paper adds that those who cast doubts should realize that Egypt, while seeking peace, does so sincerely. It understands the motives of its Arab nation, including the Egyptian people. Tricks and ruses are the characteristics of others, who seek to fish in troubled waters and who are tampering with the international community's principles and norms.

AL-RA'Y Notes Contacts With Algerians on Agreement

JN100900 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
10 Mar 85 pp 1, 18

[Text] Cairo — *AL-RA'Y* has learned that a senior Algerian official paid a lightning visit to Cairo during the past few hours. The official met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and gave him a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. *AL-RA'Y* has also learned that the message dealt with the Middle East situation and the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement aimed at promoting the peace process. Informed sources told *AL-RA'Y* that the Algerian official's visit followed a lightning visit to Algeria by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and director of the Egyptian president's office. During the visit he met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and gave him a personal message from President Mubarak.

In another development, *AL-RAY* has learned from informed sources in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that the recent Egyptian-Arab contacts on the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement have drawn positive reaction. These sources said that a number of Arab capitals have shown willingness to support the agreement. These capitals have deemed it necessary to postpone announcement of their approval until after President Mubarak's visit to Washington. These capitals are: Baghdad, Kuwait, Doha, Algiers, and Rabat. President Mubarak's envoys have already conveyed messages to President Saddam Husayn, the Kuwaiti amir, the Qatari amir, the Algerian president, and the Moroccan king.

Ghali Addresses Conference on Africa, Outlines Aid

NC111923 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today addressed the international conference on the urgent situation in Africa. He called for preparing a long-term plan on the optimum utilization of African rivers in implementation of an OAU resolution. Dr Ghali told the conference, which began its proceedings today, that such a plan should begin with regional contributions in order to consolidate cooperation between the African countries. Africa's overriding problems will only be solved if we stand by the African countries which suffer from poverty and underdevelopment and shift our attention away from individual interests to broader interests, Ghali said, adding that this should be particularly true with respect to water resources, communication, and transportation. Ghali stressed the serious situation in Africa today, saying that the current crisis is unprecedented. This, he said, will definitely affect the future course of economic and political progress.

Dr Ghali stressed that Egypt is taking a great interest in Africa's economic crisis. Egypt, he said, is offering a special aid program in response to the plea by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, who called for official and private donations to supply an additional \$1.6 billion to help confront the grave situation on the continent. Dr Ghali said that this program has three aspects: The first involves \$1 million which Egypt will place at the disposal of African governments and international institutions to finance the cost of obtaining doctors and nurses. At this point, Ghali pointed out that Egyptian doctors, pharmacists, and nurses are ready to travel to any area on the continent. Africa, he added, is suffering from a high mortality rate, estimated at 19 percent, which is continually rising because of famine.

The second aspect of the proposed Egyptian assistance deals with agriculture, Ghali said, pointing to the problems of the African farmer. The Egyptian Government, Ghali said, is placing its agronomists, irrigation engineers, and veterinarians at the disposal of African governments and international organizations and is allocating another \$1 million to finance their services.

On the third aspect of Egyptian aid, Dr Ghali said that Egypt is offering 100 fellowships, including the cost of travel and accommodation, to train African nurses in Egyptian hospitals and also for training in other fields, including agriculture, irrigation, and veterinary medicine, with a total cost exceeding \$1 million.

Egyptian assistance, Ghali said, is mainly directed to the African person, the main asset in development. Egypt's research centers and scientific institutions are placed at the disposal of the Africans [words indistinct] African solidarity. The Egyptian minister of foreign affairs said that African governments need to utilize all the potential of their people and that what is needed is to extend the kind of assistance to Africa that promotes self-reliance.

Concluding, Dr Ghali expressed the hope that the conference will be a step toward overcoming obstacles, toward prodding the elite and making them respond to the people, and toward enticing national and international institutions to cooperate and help Africa in a way that promotes self-reliance on the continent.

Delegation to Chernenko's Funeral Named

NC120747 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA) — Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim will leave Cairo at midnight tonight to lead Egypt's delegation to the funeral of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

The delegation includes Nur Farghal, the president's first secretary, and Air Brigadier General Ra'uf Hilmi, deputy senior aide-de-camp. The delegation will be joined by Egypt's ambassador in Moscow, Salah Basyuni.

Al-Azhar Imam Urges Khomeyni To Stop War

NC101055 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA) — His Eminence Shaykh Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq, grand imam of Al-Azhar mosque, has addressed an appeal to Imam Khomeyni, urging him to put an end to the tragic continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war. The following is the text of the appeal:

From the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar to Imam Khomeyni: May God's peace and mercy be with you. The conscience of the Muslims in this world rejects this war that is raging between Iran and Iraq. This war has been going on for too long. Its flames have increased, causing enormous losses on both sides. It has had adverse results on the Islamic nation, resulting in its weakness, fragmentation, and dispersion. This is a situation of which Islam absolves itself and which God condemns.

In the name of Al-Azhar, from the position of my responsibility, and after receiving cables from Muslims from all over the world protesting this situation which has gone beyond all limits, I appeal to you to put an end to this tragedy, which is diverting the attention of Muslims from what is taking place in Afghanistan, Palestine, and other Muslim lands.

I also appeal to you to be guided by the book of God and to have a feeling of responsibility toward the lives of innocent people. I appeal to you to remember the words of God: "If a person forgives and makes reconciliation, God rewards him." [Koranic verse] Peace be upon he who obeys his God's order and will.

Peres, Shamir Statements Called 'Discouraging'

NC110808 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT
11 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-AKHBAR* comments on statements by the Israeli leaders and their fear of the threat posed by peace. The paper expresses its dissatisfaction at the statements made on peace in the Middle East yesterday by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. It describes their remarks as discouraging. It expresses its belief that Peres has retracted his encouraging response to President Husni Mubarak's proposals for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis.

AL-AKHBAR says the reason for this is Peres' statement that a solution to the problem is difficult, that the situation is complex, that Israel is a small state, and that the Palestinian people exist. This seems to be his first recognition of these facts. As for Shamir, he declared that Israel will not exchange territory for peace. He also said that Israel will not talk to the PLO, even if

the latter recognizes Security Council Resolution 242. The paper adds: This stems from the fear, alarm, and panic surrounding the chance that a Middle East peace will be achieved that restores the Palestinian people's rights in the Israeli-occupied territories. This is particularly true now that Israel's economy largely depends on the occupied West Bank.

AL-AKHBAR hopes that the U.S. public will realize these facts about Israel before the U.S. Administration does. This is so because every U.S. citizen contributes to the massive military and economic aid to Israel. We hope the U.S. people will realize another important fact, namely that all the Arabs, including the Palestinians, who have right on their side, have repeatedly shown their clear and sincere desire for peaceful co-existence with Israel, which is conducting an inhuman, iron-fist policy of terror in the occupied territories. *AL-AKHBAR* calls on the United States, as the sole power capable of pressuring Israel, to work to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, Israel's security, U.S. interests, and world peace.

Saddam Husayn Cables Condolences to USSR*JN111650 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — Comrade Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Regional Command and president of the republic, has sent a cable of condolences to the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The cable says: With great regret, we received the news of the death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. While expressing to you our profound pain over this grievous misfortune, we send you our warmest condolences on behalf of the Iraqi people, and in our name and that of our comrades in the leadership. On this occasion, we stress our desire to maintain and promote the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union in a manner that serves our two peoples' interests and contributes to establishing a just peace in our region and the world.

Delegation Leaves For Moscow*JN120938 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Mar 85*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA) — RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim left for Moscow this morning, heading the delegation that will represent Iraq at the funeral tomorrow afternoon of the late Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

Iraq has begun a 3-day official mourning on the death of the Soviet leader.

3-Day Mourning Period Observed*JN111628 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — Iraq has declared an official 3-day mourning period because of the death of Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

A statement issued by the presidential office this evening announced that tomorrow, Tuesday, will be the 1st day of official mourning in Iraq.

Reportage on Military Conflict With Iran**Spokesman on Iranian Offensive***JN120901 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0827 GMT 12 Mar 85*

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate,

The punishment of those who wage war against God and his apostle and strive with might and main for mischief through the land is: execution, or crucifixion. [Koranic verse]

Sons of the great Iraqi people, sons of our valiant Armed Forces: We know them very well. Therefore, we cannot be affected by their magic. Since the unjust enemy began shelling cities, we deduced that it was trying to provide cover for an attack which it was preparing to strike at great Iraq's territory, and to express its deep-rooted hatred for Iraq and its citizens. We made the necessary preparations to counter this eventuality and to have its results rebound upon their heads and have them taste the bitterness of defeat and humiliation.

Staunch Iraqis, the enemy pushed its unjust forces through the Hoveyseh marshes, targeting the western edges of the marshes. By doing so, the enemy put itself in a perilous situation. Almighty God has blinded them. The East of Tigris forces and the forces supporting them succeeded in isolating and besieging the enemy forces. The noose is being tightened around them on all sides, while part of the force was destroyed or captured.

Their fate is inevitable doom, with God's help. We will provide you with other details on the situation later. It is God who grants us success.

[Dated] 12 March 1985

Communique No 1,767*JN111759 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Communique No 1,767 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 11 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the efforts of its people, great Iraq is scoring one victory after another. In the meantime, the edifice of falsehood is collapsing, its cries are rising, and its pillars are destroyed on its own ground with the efforts of the Armed Forces' hawks and cavaliers, the proud Al-Qadisiyah heroes. The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In implementation of the Iraqi people's will to exact punishment on the criminals who tried to attack our secure towns and citizens and in order to end their crimes, our Air Force planes carried out two successful raids on selected targets in the towns of Qazvin and Tabriz. After accomplishing their task accurately, our aircraft returned safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

2. The brave sky hawks, whose courage and firm will have been confirmed in the battlefields, are able, as usual, to pour thunderbolts of justice down over the heads of the Khomeyniite clique's forces. In splendid air attacks all day today, the valiant sky hawks carried out 218 combat missions in the Maysan sector and the sector east of Basra, inflicting large losses in personnel and setting fire to enemy equipment and vehicles.

3. Our gigantic Air Force planes are monitoring every single enemy move. While our aircraft were flying deeply over Iran in

order to destroy falsehood on its own ground, other planes from our Air Force carried out a lightening raid against a large maritime target and managed to deal a destructive blow to it at 1545 [1245 GMT] today. Our planes returned safely to base, praise be God.

4. In consolidation of our capable units' ground, sea, and air activities, our helicopter gunships carried out air raids against the enemy positions and boats in the operational sector east of Basra, scoring serious hits. They destroyed 4 enemy hideouts and 4 boats, killed 15 enemy troops, and destroyed 3 observation posts. Our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

5. Using artillery and mortars, our forward units opened intensive, concentrated fire on the enemy positions and weapon emplacements in the Maysan sector, destroying three infantry positions and killing their occupants, and destroying two boats and two observation posts.

6. One observation post and one infantry position were destroyed and their occupants killed in the central sector of the operational theater.

7. One 120mm mortar and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed in the operational sector east of Basra.

8. Fleeing the sanguinary regime in Iran, fresh groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units at the battlefronts. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

9. The criminal enemy resumed its shelling of the secure civilian areas with heavy artillery. The artillery shelling included Mandali and Basra.

10. At 0714 today, an enemy plane infiltrated the old Baghdad-Ba'qubah road in the Al-Fadiliyah area 30 km east of Baghdad. Our ground defenses intercepted it and forced it to flee. Three children were wounded in the incident.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 March 1985

Six Iranian Cities Attacked

JN121056 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA) — Iraq has announced that it has delivered aerial and missile strikes at six Iranian cities, including Tehran. A military spokesman said today that Iraqi fighter planes carried out a series of aerial raids against selected targets in the Iranian capital, Tehran, and in the cities of Zanjan, Arak, and Bushehr at 0200 last night, that is, 2300 GMT. The spokesman stressed that all the planes which carried out these strikes returned safely to base.

He indicated that between 2200 and 0200 last night, that is, 1900 to 2300 GMT yesterday, Iraq dealt destructive missile strikes to selected targets in Dezful and Masjed Soleyman, scoring accurate hits.

The spokesman warned that Iraq will strongly and severely reply to any aggression the Iranian rulers commit against Iraq. He

indicated that these Iraqi strikes come in retaliation for the Iranian rulers' continued bombardment of Iraqi cities.

Kirkuk Missile Attack Denied

JN121147 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Kirkuk, 12 Mar (INA) — Responsible sources in Al-Ta'mim Governorate have stated that the Provincial capital, Kirkuk, and its environs have not been subjected to any attacks by long-range or short-range missiles.

In a statement to INA this morning, these sources said that agents of the Iranian regime infiltrated into some areas of the city by night and planted time-bombs to be detonated at a time set by their masters outside Iraq and which would produce a resounding blast so that Tehran could announce that the city had been attacked with missiles. The responsible sources said that there are no traces of any missiles or even bombs or anything resembling them in the city.

Ministry Briefs Envoys on War, Diplomatic Moves

JN111949 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Nabil Darwish dispatch from Baghdad]

[Excerpt] A short time ago, meetings with the ambassadors of the five UN Security Council permanent member-states were concluded at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. Another meeting held for the ambassadors of the GCC states, and a third for the other Arab ambassadors were also concluded. This Iraqi diplomatic move is aimed at developing the agreement signed on 12 June [1984] under the aegis of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general by adding implementation rules. It is well known that Iraq does not consider economic targets as civilian targets, under the pretext that Iran is striking at the Iraqi ports. Iraq also calls for amending this agreement with regard to the deployment of UN observers in the war zones.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves Baghdad For Paris 11 Mar

JN111432 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad for Paris this afternoon on an official visit of several days to France.

During the visit, Tariq 'Aziz will hold talks with the French officials on relations between the two friendly countries.

Jon Srbovan Leads SFRY Delegation to Baghdad

Meets Irrigation Minister

JN091435 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1343 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA) — Irrigation Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud held a meeting with Jon Srbovan, member of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, and his delegation here

today. They discussed spheres of cooperation between the two friendly countries in irrigation and land reclamation and ways to bolster them.

Received by Ramadan

JN101544 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1448 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Mar (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Jon Srbovan, member of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, here today. They discussed Iraqi-SFRY trade and economic cooperation.

Departs Baghdad 11 Mar

JN110926 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — Jon Srbovan, member of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, and his delegation left Baghdad at dawn today after a 4-day visit to Iraq.

During this visit, the SFRY official held talks with a number of Iraqi officials on ways to bolster bilateral economic and trade cooperation relations.

Turkish Housing Minister Begins 4-Day Visit

Arrives in Baghdad

JN081945 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA) — Turkish Housing Minister Safa Giray arrived in Baghdad this evening at the head of a delegation on a 4-day visit to Iraq. He will hold talks with Iraqi Housing and Reconstruction Ministry officials on means of promoting cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

Meets Trade Minister

JN091413 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA) — RCC member and Minister of Trade Hasan 'Ali held a meeting with Turkish Housing Minister Safa Giray and his delegation here today. They reviewed economic cooperation between the two neighboring countries and ways to promote it.

Talks With Irrigation Minister

JN091436 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1344 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA) — The Iraqi irrigation minister met with Turkish Housing Minister Safa Giray and his delegation. The two ministers reviewed the positive development of relations between the two countries in irrigation and land reclamation. They also discussed the Turkish companies' contribution to the implementation of irrigation projects in Iraq.

Meeting With Industry Minister

JN111411 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Mar (INA) — Industry and Minerals Minister Subhi Yasin met with Turkish Housing Minister Safa Giray and his delegation here today. They reviewed areas of bilateral industrial and technical cooperation and ways to promote it.

Trade Minister Leads Delegation to Brazil

JN111954 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, left Baghdad for Brazil this evening at the head of a delegation to participate in the ceremonies that will be held on the occasion of the inauguration of the Brazilian president-elect. Hasan 'Ali told INA that the delegation will discuss with Brazilian officials a number of issues pertaining to expanding the trade exchange and diversifying bilateral economic and technical cooperation in light of the decisions and recommendations of the joint Iraqi-Brazilian committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation.

Light Industries Minister Leaves for GDR

JN081244 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA) — Iraqi Light Industries Minister Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah left for East Berlin today at the head of a delegation on a visit to the GDR that will last several days. In a statement to INA, the minister said the during the visit, he will participate in the opening of the Leipzig Fair early next week, and will hold talks with GDR officials on strengthening relations of friendship and technical and economic cooperation between Iraq and the GDR in the service of the two friendly countries' interests.

The delegation comprises representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Industry and Minerals, and Trade.

National Assembly Delegation Leaves For Europe

JN091045 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0918 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Mar (INA) — The Iraqi National Assembly delegation under Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, chairman of the Assembly's Arab and International Committee, left Baghdad today for Strasbourg on a tour that will include France, the FRG, and Belgium.

Hammudi told INA that his tour is within the framework of contacts between the Iraqi National Council and the European parliaments and their committees to explain the developments of the Iraq-Iran war, the regional and international threats arising from its continuation, Iraq's peaceful initiatives toward it, the barbaric Iranian shelling of the Iraqi cities, and Iran's crimes of killing innocent Iraqi POW's.

Hammudi added that the delegation will hold meetings with parliamentarians in these countries to promote relations between the National Assembly and the respective parliaments of these countries.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Urges Iran To End Military Conflict
JN090806 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Mar (INA) — The newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* has said that by retaliating against the Iranian shelling, Iraq does not want to harm the people of Iran but to convince them that the practices of their rulers are wrong. In an editorial today, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* added that by shelling Iraqi cities, the Iranian rulers are expressing their military impotence and avoiding a clear answer to their people that will justify the continuation of the war. The paper asked the people of Iran to pressure their rulers and force them to abandon the path of war and aggression. It said there is no logical cause for continuing the war and aggression against Iraq, adding that Iran's crimes must prompt Iraq to retaliate in the same way but with greater power than Iran. The paper affirmed that the only way to save the Iranian rulers from the impasse in which they have placed themselves is to end the war and solve the dispute by peaceful means.

AL-QADISIYAH Warns Iran Against Further Aggression
JN120947 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA) — An Iraqi military newspaper has asserted that Iraq will resort to methods it considers suitable to end the Iranian regime's violent and terrorist policy.

In an article today, the newspaper *AL-QADISIYAH*, which is published by the Defense Ministry, warned the Iranian regime that Iraq carries out what it says, and that every day of aggression that passes will be very expensive for the Iranian regime. The paper explained that despite all the peaceful attempts exerted by Iraq, the Iranian regime continues to threaten Iraq.

It pointed out that the Iranian regime is responsible for the continuation and escalation of the war through aggressive acts such as shelling the border cities after its armed forces failed to achieve any successes on the battlefields.

The newspaper called on the international community to adopt a clear position through measures against the Iranian regime, which insists on aggression and disregards contemporary civilized logic.

King Husayn Sends Condolences to Soviets

JN121244 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
12 Mar 85

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a message of condolences to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the death of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko. The following is the text of the message:

With great sorrow and regret I received the news of the death of President Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. We, in Jordan, always remember the positive role of the Soviet leadership and the late President Chernenko in strengthening and reinforcing Jordanian-Soviet relations to achieve the vital mutual interests of the two friendly peoples. Our Arab nation will continue to appreciate the USSR's firm stand in supporting just Arab causes, particularly the Palestine cause.

On behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan — government and people — and in my own name, I express my heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the Soviet leadership, to Chernenko's family, and to the friendly Soviet people.

'Ubaydat, Delegation To Leave For USSR 12 Mar

JN11847 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat is due to leave for Moscow tomorrow at the head of an official Jordanian delegation to attend Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko's funeral. The delegation comprises His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief chamberlain; Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri; and Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces.

Further on Visit by Austrian Foreign Minister

Exchanges Speeches With Al-Masri

JN110920 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
11 Mar 85 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that Jordan seeks to coordinate its efforts with all those who are committed to the issue of peace in the Middle East, particularly fraternal Arabs and the PLO. In a speech delivered at the dinner banquet he held at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel last night in honor of Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz, the foreign minister added that the formula for joint action agreed upon by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO is a sincere effort based on land in exchange for peace.

The following is the text of Al-Masri's speech:

It is my pleasure to welcome you as dear guests. Our countries are linked by cordial friendship relations which stem from the principles and ideals of peace and understanding to which our people adhere and which are based on mutual interests, thanks

to the leaders of our countries, Jordan and Austria, and to their efforts and concern for preserving the continuation of these cordial relations. Your visit is an assertion and continuation of the strong ties between our two countries.

Your Excellency: You are aware of the situation in the region, which is surrounded by dangers as a result of a long and difficult conflict. Therefore, whenever I say that a long period of time has passed without achieving real peace in the region, I am sure I am expressing a joint conviction of Jordan and Austria.

On our part, we have spared no effort to bring peace prospects closer. It is not necessary to reiterate Jordan's commitment to achieving peace. We welcome all peace efforts, particularly UN efforts, represented mainly in Resolution 242 adopted in 1967. Jordan accepted this resolution, as well as Resolution 338, which was agreed on by the warring countries in the region. We called for implementing these two resolutions. Thus, we reiterate our conviction that Resolution 242 still constitutes the sound basis for a just and peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the right of all countries in the region to live within peaceful and recognized borders. We assert our commitment to peace proposals, especially the ones which Jordan daringly participated in formulating and in showing their objectives. Our firm and strong commitment is for peace and for saving our kinfolk and their territory from foreign occupation.

At a time when Jordan seeks a just and permanent peace in the region, Israel insists on continuing its rejection of the basic requirements for peace. Israel's response to peace calls is more defiance and intransigence. Establishing Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territory and escalating injustice and repressive measures against the Arabs who are under Israeli military rule are obstacles to peace. Israel's record in the region exposes its military and aggressive tendencies. The logic and policy of force is the only way Israel deals with the Arabs. The Palestinian problem is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Therefore, failure to achieve a just solution to the problem will exacerbate the situation and constitute a threat to world peace and security. The international community has reached a conviction that real peaceful settlement requires the participation of the Palestinians, victims of Israeli aggression, in the peace process. The PLO is recognized by the Palestinians, the Arabs, and the international community as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Therefore, ignoring the Palestinians' representatives in the peace process is an illogical and harmful matter.

Your Excellency: On this basis, Jordan seeks to coordinate its efforts with all those who are committed to the cause of peace in the Middle East, particularly with our Arab brothers and the PLO. The Jordanian-Palestinian framework or the Amman agreement that was signed on 11 February is a sincere effort on our part whose basic pillar is the principle of land in exchange for peace. This principle is the starting point of the UN resolutions and other peace initiatives on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Through the implementation of this principle, the Palestinians can attain their right to self-determination in accordance with a formula of confederal union with Jordan. The Amman agreement also stipulates the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to attend the proposed international peace

conference, which is the best means for the attainment of a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This conference which seeks to establish peace in the region must be held under UN auspices with the participation of all parties concerned and the participation of the permanent UN Security Council members.

In light of this understanding, we feel quite justified when we call on our friends, the friends of peace — and Austria is one of the important friends — to exercise pressure on Israel to have it respond positively to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement for the attainment of peace. We hope our European friends will intensify their invaluable diplomatic efforts to convince Israel to desist from its maneuverings and to relinquish its negative stand on the peace process.

Your Excellency: We were shocked by the inhumane and illegal practices Israel perpetrated recently in southern Lebanon. Israel's indiscriminate and repressive attacks against civilians in the Lebanese territories which are under its occupation must be denounced and condemned. We have always warned that terror only begets terror.

Our deep preoccupation with the Arab-Israeli conflict does not lessen our interest and anxiety over what is taking place on the eastern flank of the Arab world where a fierce war has been raging for over 4 years. We believe that the various UN Security Council resolutions and the many peace efforts by nonaligned countries and the ICO are a suitable and just basis for ending the hostility and the enmity which exist there in a manner that would secure an honorable peace for both Iraq and Iran. In this respect, Iraq's declaration that it accepts these efforts deserves our appreciation. We hope that Iran will follow suit and demonstrate a similar peaceful stand.

At the conclusion of my speech, I would like to wish you a good stay in Jordan and hope that your meetings with Jordanian officials will be beneficial and constructive and help in strengthening the close bonds of friendship which exist between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Austria.

Gratz replied in a speech in which he asserted his country's condemnation of the occupation of other countries' territories and called for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He said his country recognizes the Palestinian people's national and legitimate rights. The following is the text of Gratz' speech:

Your Excellency, dear friends, gentlemen: It is my great pleasure to be among you here in Jordan. I feel that I am among friends. I thank you for your kind invitation to visit your country. Amman and Vienna have strong ties, not only because of rapid communications, but because of the identity of convictions and viewpoints which have helped to strengthen bilateral relations. Our relations have witnessed development in light of the spirit of friendship and cooperation between Jordan and Austria. Jordan has moved along the path of development, overcoming a difficult beginning so as to become a successful and prominent country that plays a basic role in this region, which is rich with history and civilization, but, regrettably, which is very disturbed politically.

In light of the abilities and skills of your people, and thanks to the inspiration and political wisdom of your people's leadership, I am optimistic regarding your people's future. You have suffered and struggled, and your will and determination to continue building and strengthening your country are unlimited. We realize Jordan's moderate and constructive role under the enlightened leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, who is exerting strenuous efforts to achieve peace in this region.

Your Excellency, I do not need to reiterate our viewpoint regarding the Palestine cause, which is closely linked to your country. We condemn the occupation of other countries' territories and call for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967. We also recognize the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to establish their state, if they want to do so.

We believe that the PLO, in its capacity as the representative of the Palestinian people, must participate in all efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem. In addition, we believe that in order to achieve a permanent peace, this peace should be based on just principles. We have asked Israel to review its policy and to stop building settlements in the occupied territory. We also called on Israel to end its occupation of Lebanon. We always try to convey our viewpoints to Israeli politicians, officials, journalists, and circles. Israel has two options: If Israel is convinced that normalizing its relations with the neighboring Arab countries is an essential matter for its security, it should ultimately withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967 and accept the fact that the Palestinians have land there. The other option for Israel is to continue its belief that its existence can be guaranteed in a better way through military superiority and military intransigence vis-a-vis the Arabs.

In our opinion, the first option will open the door for a meaningful negotiating process that is in the interest of not only the Arabs but also in the interest of Israel itself. The second option will prolong the conflict, threaten prospects for a just solution and lead to more extremist complications. We hope the Israeli leadership will opt for the first option.

During the past few weeks, attention was focused on peace efforts, mainly on Jordanian efforts to activate the peace process, which is facing serious stalemate. We are aware of the proposal presented by King Husayn at the PNC meetings in Amman. We hope the agreement signed on 11 February will prepare the path for a solution accepted by all peoples of good intentions. On our part, we support Jordanian efforts to break the stalemate in the peace process and find an acceptable solution which will be encouraged by the international community.

As I express my gratitude and appreciation for your hospitality, warm reception, and the friendship you harbor toward me and my country, allow me to present my sincere greetings to Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur, Your Excellency, and your wife, wishing your great people and nice country progress and a shining future.

The dinner banquet was attended by a number of ministers, the rapporteur of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee

chairman, the doyen of the diplomatic corps in Amman, and members of the accompanying Austrian delegation.

Confers With Al-Masri

JN111426 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — The first session of talks between the Jordanian side, headed by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, and the Austrian side, headed by Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz, was held at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways to promote and bolster them, as well as with the Middle East issue. Al-Masri briefed the Austrian minister on the details of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement reached on 11 February with the aim of positively contributing to peace. Al-Masri explained that this agreement is in harmony with what international legitimacy has accepted and decided as a basis for solving the Palestine question in a manner that gives an opportunity for all the region's countries and peoples to live in peace. Al-Masri said that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is based on the UN resolutions and the spirit of Arab legitimacy expressed by the Fes summit resolutions and that it mainly stems from the principle of the exchange of land for peace.

The Austrian minister affirmed his country's interest in bringing about a peaceful solution to the Middle East issue and its support for the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. He added that Austria will work within the framework of the European group and will do its best, with the United States and the Soviet Union, to bring about a peaceful solution to the question.

Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territories, also met with the Austrian foreign minister and his delegation today. During the meeting, Mahmud reviewed the current situation in the occupied West Bank and the pressures the occupation authorities are exerting against Arab citizens and the educational, health, and economic institutions. He also talked about the obstacles the occupation authorities are placing against achieving progress in the industrial sphere in the occupied Arab territories.

Mahmud briefed the Austrian minister on the expansionist colonialist policy being adopted by the occupation authorities in the West Bank, explaining that they had seized about 53 percent of the Arab lands under the pretext of using them for military purposes, but these authorities are building settlements on these lands instead. The minister indicated that the Israeli Government has recently decided to set up nine new settlements.

Talks With Industry Minister

JN111553 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] Amman, 11 Mar (PETRA) — Dr Jawad al-Anani, industry and trade minister, today discussed with Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz and his delegation bilateral trade and economic relations and ways to bolster and promote them.

The Austrian minister affirmed his country's interest in promoting cooperation with Jordan in all fields, particularly in the economic field. He expressed his country's readiness to participate in implementing the next 5-year development plan, as well as his country's desire to import Jordanian goods and commodities.

Dr al-Anani explained the situation of the Jordanian economy and the basic economic projects Jordan intends to implement, the foremost of which are the Al-Shidiyah phosphate project and projects for the chemical industries that depend on phosphate and potash. He affirmed Jordan's readiness to cooperate in implementing joint projects using advanced technology and in establishing various food industries based on the agricultural production in Jordan and the West Bank. The meeting was attended by Ibrahim Badran, under secretary of the Industry and Trade Ministry; and Radi Ibrahim, 'Asim al-Hindawi, and Sami 'Ashur from the ministry.

Meets Armed Forces Commander

JN120759 Amman SAWT AL-SHAB in Arabic
12 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Amman, (PETRA) — Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, received Austrian Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz in his office today. During the meeting, they discussed several issues of common interest. Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, the chief of staff of the Armed Forces; the Austrian ambassador in Amman; and the guest minister's delegation attended the meeting.

Reportage on Visit by UNRWA General Commissioner

Received by Prime Minister

JN111607 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] Amman, 11 Mar (PETRA) — At his office today, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat received UNRWA General Commissioner Olof Rydbeck. During the meeting they discussed UNRWA's general budget and the measures taken to reduce its deficit. 'Ubaydat stressed that the cuts in the UNRWA budget should not affect the level of services UNRWA is extending to the refugees in Jordan and should not lead to the dismissal of UNRWA employees in Jordan. The meeting was attended by the foreign minister and the occupied territories minister.

Denies Employee Dismissals Considered

JN111716 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — UNRWA General Commissioner Olof Rydbeck has stated that during his meetings with Jordanian officials he sensed full support for the services UNRWA is extending to the Palestinian refugees, as well as complete readiness to exert every possible effort to secure the continuation of these services. At a news conference he held at the agency's

headquarters in Amman this afternoon, he said that the agency is currently suffering from a budget deficit estimated at 27 million dinars. He added that during his contacts with countries contributing to the agency's budget, he sensed readiness to cover the deficit. He added that there is a possibility that this deficit will not be covered, a fact that will necessitate reducing some services to the Palestinian refugees. He also said: "If such a reduction, which we rule out, takes place, it will affect the Palestinian refugees in Jordan and will have some political dimensions."

Rydbeck also pointed out that the agency has halted the implementation of some future projects that will cost about \$40 million and that this halt will not affect the various services the agency is currently extending. He also denied that the UNRWA is considering the possibility of dismissing some UNRWA employees.

Warns of Services Reductions

*JN120700 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
12 Mar 85 p 3*

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpts] Amman — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Monday categorically denied reports that the agency was planning immediate cuts in its services to Palestinian refugees, but cautioned that the agency may be forced to do so if it fails to offset its 1985 budget deficit before May of this year. At a press conference held at the headquarters of the agency in Amman, UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck said measures adopted by the agency to offset a budget deficit of \$67 million for the fiscal year 1985 did not include any reduction in services to refugees in various host countries and the occupied west Bank and Gaza strip.

Mr. Rydbeck, who was speaking to reporters at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan, also expressed optimism that UNRWA would be able to overcome its financial crisis.

UNRWA, which had been running into financial difficulties over the past several years, was able to survive through several alternate means of finance, Mr. Rydbeck said. But, he added, these options are no longer available to the agency and he implied that this year could be the most crucial in the history of 35-year-old specialised U.N. agency, which depends solely on international contributions for its existence. UNRWA decided earlier this year on cost reductions totalling \$40 million to offset the \$67 million budget deficit, but these measures do not include any cut in services offered by the agency, Mr. Rydbeck explained.

According to a press release by the agency, the recommended measures include a freeze in recruitment of new staff, eliminating the necessity of further teachers and premises by increasing the number of students in classrooms of the agency's schools in various host countries, seven to 50 per cent cuts in budgets for transport, travel, educational supplies and equipment and the deferment of secondary maintenance work on buildings and equipment, in addition to a freeze on all new construction of schools and clinics. However, the agency is continuing to build

schools and health centres with special funds not included in the general budget. These special funds are contributed for these specific purposes by various governments and organisations, in addition to their regular contribution to the agency.

The "austerity measures" adopted by the agency also include the abolishment of 38 administrative jobs at the UNRWA headquarters in Vienna and Amman and the deferment of pay increases for staff which were due as of the beginning of 1985. "Any large organisation can always absorb such reductions," Mr. Rydbeck commented Monday.

The \$40 million cost reductions still left a cash budget deficit of \$27 million in the \$205 million budget for this year. Mr. Rydbeck said he had sent out appeals to various donor countries and organisations to help the agency to fight the crisis.

Mr. Rydbeck revealed that he himself had been in touch with a number of European countries, including Sweden and Norway, and that the response had been very encouraging.

The U.S., which contributes \$67 million annually to UNRWA, is the biggest single source of funds for the agency, followed by Japan and the European Community and other member states of the United Nations. Switzerland, despite being a non-member of the U.N., had been offering substantial help to the agency, Mr. Rydbeck said.

He attributed part of the UNRWA crisis to the high exchange rate of the American dollar, explaining that all contributions to the agency except the American and Japanese are in the national currencies of the donor states and the amounts lose much of their international value when converted into the American currency.

UNRWA envoys have been shuttling between European capitals in a bid to obtain pledges of financial support for the agency and, according to Mr. Rydbeck, "the actual situation will be clear only by end of May." He warned that the agency would be forced to "consider major reductions" in the event that it failed to offset the budget deficit.

The UNRWA commissioner-general, who held talks with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Shawkat Mahmud and other senior Jordanian government officials during his current visit, described his talks in Amman as part of consultations with the governments of the host countries on the agency's activities. He praised the Jordanian government's efforts in the international scene to seek support for UNRWA and said: "I had come here to brief them (the Jordanian government) on the situation in UNRWA and seek their help in the international scene, but I found that they are already doing what I was hoping they would do."

"I have come away very satisfied" from talks with the Jordanian ministers and officials, he said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and UNRWA are also keeping close contacts, with each other, Mr. Rydbeck said. He lauded the PLO's efforts to secure further international financial support for the agency.

During his current visit to Amman, Mr. Rydbeck also met with representatives of the agency's staff in Jordan and elders from Palestinian refugee camps in the Kingdom. UNRWA Public Information Officer William Lee described the meetings as "routine" and said the UNRWA commissioner was briefing the staff representatives and refugee leaders on the activities of the agency.

Somali Foreign Minister Leaves Amman 11 Mar

JN111724 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — Mohamed 'Ali Hamed, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, left Amman this evening after a 3-day visit to Jordan, during which he conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from Somali President Siad Barre dealing with Arab relations in general and bilateral relations in particular, as well as with the latest developments in the Arab arena. He also held talks with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and Industry and Trade Minister Dr Jawad al-'Anani. He was seen off at the airport by the Foreign Ministry secretary general and the chief of protocol.

AL-RA'Y Views U.S.-Israeli Free Trade Zone

JN090843 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
9 Mar 85 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The Arabs and the U.S.-Israeli Free Trade Zone"]

[Text] So far, the Arabs have not taken specific measures to confront the U.S.-Israeli free trade zone or to prevent Israeli commodities from entering Arab markets under U.S. cover. True, the Arab League hinted at boycotting the foreign companies and organizations that would deal with that zone. However, the issue needs comprehensive and intensive study in order to define the deterrent measures that should be taken with regard to the foreign companies and organizations, the situation of U.S. commodities in the Arab markets, or the Arab funds in U.S. banks. The agreement is so serious that it should not be confronted only with partial measures. The agreement should be faced with real Arab action.

Nobody denies the existence of Arab differences regarding the ways to activate the Palestine cause. However, these differences should not prevent reaching an agreement on the measures that should be taken to confront the U.S.-Israeli free trade zone, and on abiding by and implementing these measures whenever the U.S. Congress endorses the free zone deal. We are not exaggerating when we say that if the Arabs succeed in adopting and implementing these measures, then it will be a very important step toward confronting U.S.-Israeli collusion. The door will then be open for more unified Arab moves to curb the aggressors and their allies and to make them review their calculations related to the Palestinian cause. The agreement itself is a joint U.S.-Israeli wager on Arab failure. It is time we foiled that wager and proved that Arab differences are partial differences that cannot prevent an Arab agreement being reached on unified measures to confront the trade zone between the aggressors and their allies. Any Arab delay or failure in taking these measures will expose the

Arabs to more aggressive expansion. Arab interests will not be served by any delay or failure in this field.

Therefore, the Arab League should prepare a definite plan for what must be done and present the plan to the Arab leaders in order to adopt a political decision that would translate the plan into binding measures. The Arab League should not hesitate to do so because threats alone will not benefit the Arabs. The Arabs should prepare and implement a counterprogram if they are serious in confronting the U.S.-Israeli free trade zone. Condemnations and urging the U.S. Administration to go back on the agreement would be futile. Strong countermeasures remain the language that should be used and the step that must be adopted in this matter.

AL-RA'Y Urges U.S. Response to Shamir Remarks

JN100938 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
10 Mar 85 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The U.S. Administration and Shamir's Statement"]

[Text] Before President Mubarak arrived in Washington and while he was on his way there from Paris carrying the ideas he announced a few days ago which call for initiating a dialogue between the U.S. Administration and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, Israeli Foreign Minister Shamir began to detonate a political bomb. Yesterday, he said that Israel will not give up the West Bank through any peace agreement. Clearly, this statement is aimed at undermining any conviction of the feasibility of the Egyptian president's ideas and any negotiations between the parties to the conflict in the region. Moreover, one wonders whether the bomb that Shamir detonated was planned and set off without the U.S. Administration's knowledge and approval, or whether it was the outcome of previous coordination between the two allies — the United States and Israel.

It is only fair to say that if the U.S. Administration does not immediately absolve itself from Shamir's statement and confirm its disapproval of it, the U.S. Administration will not possibly be able to deny its involvement in the Arab region's worst political game — encouraging President Mubarak to hold talks with it and encouraging Israel to undermine the ideas that he will propose during these talks. Such a game can only be aimed at thwarting any attempt to activate the issue, disregarding the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, and wasting time in futile talks between the U.S. Administration and this or that Arab leader. This would enable Israel to swallow up the land which is the crux of the issue and consequently liquidate the issue itself.

Thus, if the U.S. Administration wishes to prevent its already blackened image from being further tarnished in the region, it must prove that it is not a party to this bad game. In any case, it must be recalled that the strong Arab arm alone should regain the usurped land without seeking permission or approval from Shamir or any Israeli leader. The liberation of the land is inevitable. This is a fact on which all the arrogant statements and Israeli extremist terrorist practices cannot cast doubt.

7-Day Mourning Period Declared for Chernenko

NC120917 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT
12 Mar 85

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has issued a memorandum declaring a 7-day period of mourning to mark the death of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko.

Khaddam, Karami, Junblatt Interviewed on Talks

NC101814 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT
10 Mar 85

[Interviews with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and Minister Walid Junblatt by unidentified reporters following the conclusion of the Lebanese-Syrian talks in Bikfayya on 10 March — recorded]

[Text][Khaddam] His excellency the president, Prime Minister Karami, Ministers Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri, and I met yesterday and today. The discussions during the meetings dealt in depth with the Lebanese situation in light of the government's policy statement. We also discussed the prerequisites and means for the implementation of this policy statement. An agreement was reached on a number of basic points which have been referred [to the Cabinet] for the adoption of appropriate measures in order to implement them. These points are related to the legislative decrees, political participation in the government, the security situation, and the means to implement the security plans. The Military Council was summoned and was given clear-cut directives regarding the security plans and the Army's national role, both in the south and elsewhere in the country. We hope that all these matters and their results will achieve the Lebanese people's aspirations. There are other subjects which were left for discussion during a meeting to be held during the next few days because we are pressed for time and I have commitments in Syria.

[Reporter] Are we to understand that you will return to [word indistinct]

[Khaddam] Yes.

[Reporter] Can it be said that the process for a political and security solution has begun with the conclusion of the Bikfayya meeting today?

[Khaddam] Yes. I can say that what has been agreed upon constitutes not a beginning but great strides toward the implementation of the government's policy statement and [words indistinct] toward a solution.

[Reporter] Did the discussions with military personnel concentrate primarily on carrying out all the security tasks assigned to them in Beirut?

[Khaddam] All aspects of the security situation in all areas were discussed. As I have said, the Army has two tasks: A task in the south and a security task inside the country. We hope that the Military Council will be able to implement the directives it has been issued in the national and security spheres.

[Reporter] Will measures be implemented soon?

[Khaddam] Naturally. What has been agreed upon will be implemented. The Military Council [words indistinct] implementation now that the political decision has been made on all matters that were discussed.

[Reporter] Are there priorities [words indistinct]?

[Khaddam] The security issue is a priority. There is the issue of the south, the issue of security in the south, the issue [words indistinct], the issue of public utilities, and the restoration of the state's control over these utilities. There are consecutive steps that will establish the appropriate security atmosphere for all of Lebanon.

[Reporter] What is the role of Damascus in these [words indistinct]?

[Khaddam] It is a role of assisting the discussions among brothers.

[Karami] I would like to tell you about this meeting, which was particularly significant because everyone attended it. This reconciliation is — if you like — a resumption of mutual efforts to put this country on the right track for salvation. In other words, the wind of change is blowing and I hope everyone will feel it and recognize it as such. We were right when we predicted that the weather would improve.

The discussions we held are preliminary to putting the final touches on reforms and implementing them. These reforms deal in particular with legislative decrees, the Chamber of Deputies, the evacuees, the reconstruction of devastated areas, and kidnapped people. They also include security plans, the filling of any vacuum taking place in the south as a result of the Israeli enemy's withdrawal, and the reinforcement of the government's forces there. The existence of these forces in the south should add to their unity and cohesion and to their dedication in carrying out their national duty of protecting the land and people. I have been an optimist and some have blamed me. They have been wrong.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, will the Cabinet meet to follow up the issues agreed upon during the Bikfayya meeting?

[Karami] The Cabinet will undoubtedly continue meeting as usual. We are awaiting Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who has promised to return, probably on Saturday, to follow up the discussion that took place in Bikfayya. I would like to ask reporters the following favor: Be as optimistic as I am.

[Reporter] Does this mean, Mr Prime Minister, that we can expect some practical measures to be implemented before Khaddam returns to Beirut?

[Karami] Needless to say, we would have liked to have seen such measures implemented before now, never mind in the future.

[Junblatt] I think that the meeting was useful in eliminating many obstacles. Having agreed to cancel or amend some legislative decrees — a matter that has caused a lot of debate in the

past — we then discussed the situation in the south. The Army presence in the south should be reinforced in such a way that it is able to fulfill its normal task and to repress any disorders following the coming Israeli withdrawal. Regarding Suq al-Gharb, we, in the Progressive Socialist Party, are ready to calm down this front in coordination with the Lebanese Army, in order to pave the road for a balanced security plan that will be acceptable to all.

[Reporter] Just one question, could we receive any assurances from Walid Bey [Junblatt] that peace will be restored and the shelling will stop?

[Junblatt] As far as our party is concerned, I believe that we can give such assurances. Naturally, this matter is closely related with the issue of calming down the Suq al-Gharb front.

Birri Comments on Discussions at Bikfayya Talks

NC102017 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Interview with Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, by an unidentified reporter following the conclusion of the Lebanese-Syrian talks in Bikfayya on 10 March — recorded]

[Text] [Birri] As you have learned, the meeting was held in a positive atmosphere and was characterized by a spirit of seriousness and confidence. Several steps were actually taken in the political domain and this will inevitably reflect on the security domain and on the general conditions in the country.

The most important step is the idea of reconsolidating the Army and giving it a southern and national orientation. In addition, there was also the issue of legislative decrees and great strides were made with regard to the government policy statement.

Some of these points remain pending until Saturday [16 March] when another session of talks will be held with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to continue discussing the whole array of political and security issues. Let us hope for the best, God willing.

[Reporter] Does this mean that the Amal Movement is taking some steps that may contribute to appeasement?

[Birri] Of course, this has always been the role of the Amal movement and it is even more so now.

[Reporter] Does this apply to the south and to Beirut?

[Birri] It applies to each part of Lebanon.

[Reporter] What is your position on increasing the Chamber's deputies?

[Birri] Increasing the number of deputies and political sectarianism are two subjects that will be discussed on Saturday.

[Reporter] Thank you.

Karami, Birri on Arab Support, Aid to Lebanon

NC102220 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Beirut, 10 Mar (MENA) — Prime Minister Rashid Karami wonders why some Arabs have abandoned Lebanon, even though Lebanon has been struggling and making sacrifices for Arab dignity and for the Arab nation's interest against its common enemy, Israel. Karami has urged vigilance against Israeli subversive and criminal actions and plotting against Lebanon's national interests, economy, and existence. In press statements published today, Karami added that supporting the Lebanese national resistance and the united Lebanese stance in the battle for liberation constitutes a guarantee for foiling Israel's plan and ultimately forcing it to leave Lebanon.

Karami condemned the booby-trapped vehicle explosion in Bi'r al-'Abd in Beirut's southern suburb on Friday and all similar crimes perpetrated by Israel and its agents. He affirmed that Lebanon will maintain its national position of rejecting Israeli conditions and blackmail following the cancellation of the 17 May accord which seriously affected Lebanon's national sovereignty.

Meanwhile, Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, expressed surprise over the Arab silence regarding the situation in southern Lebanon. He said that the Lebanese national resistance is not requesting material, but political support. In press statements, Birri said that Lebanon needs political support in international circles, noting that the Arabs have failed to provide aid to Lebanon in accordance with the Tunis summit resolutions despite Lebanon's need. Birri said that he received a telephone call last night from Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri informing him that King Fahd has donated 100 million Lebanese pounds for rebuilding southern Lebanon.

Al-Huss, Birri Condemn Israeli Attacks

NC120628 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Commenting on the Israeli occupation forces' incursion in Al-Zrariyah and the valiant resistance put up by the Lebanese Army and the inhabitants, Dr Salim al-Huss, education and labor minister, said: Israel comes daily with new proof that it has lost self-control. Modern war technology cannot find an answer to the spirit of sacrifice with which the southerner arms himself. Israel has lost self-control. It is trying to cover up its failure by adopting savage methods. We cannot but praise the valor, courage, and patriotism of the soldiers of the Lebanese Army who resisted the treacherous force with their modest means. A greeting of reverence and admiration from us to them and to the brave Lebanese national resistance fighters. By its bestial actions against the village's inhabitants, Israel is actually condemning its defenders and supporters. Will the U.S. Administration realize this?

Lawyer Nabih Birri, minister of state for southern Lebanon and reconstruction affairs and minister of justice and hydroelectric resources, commented on what has taken place in Al-Zrariyah, saying: Words cannot describe the crimes committed against mankind. A new massacre was committed in Al-Zrariyah today.

The Israeli forces have destroyed 70 houses, committed scores of crimes resulting in suffocation and murder, and displaced the inhabitants. Despite this, the great powers, particularly the United States, claim that Israel is a pillar of democracy in the Middle East. Minister Birri greeted Al-Zrariyah's strugglers and the forces in nearby areas who resisted the Israelis in hand to hand combat yesterday despite the Israeli shelling and the devastation caused by all their military means. We convey our deepest sympathy and great pride to the relatives of the martyrs in the Lebanese Army.

'Military Sources' Confirm Downing of Israeli Copter
NC111538 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Latest reports from the south on the criminal Israeli operations against Al-Zrariyah indicate that the Zionist shelling of the village began at 2300 last night and continued until the morning under the cover of which the occupation forces advanced toward the village and managed to occupy all the surrounding hilly areas. The occupation forces entered the village with 120 vehicles. Helicopters participated in the shelling and landing operations. A number of Israeli vehicles were burned as they were advancing toward Al-Zrariyah while others were put out of commission inside the village. Meanwhile, our citizens in the village are displaying splendid steadfastness and our national resistance fighters are carrying out daring operations against the occupation troops. The operations were still going on when this news bulletin was prepared.

Israeli troops have demolished and burned many houses. Twenty-four citizens were martyred during the storming operation. The occupation troops arrested 50 citizens and took them to an unknown destination. Military sources said that fighting is still raging in the village, that an Israeli tank has been put out of commission, and that a helicopter has been downed.

Beirut Updates Security Situation in Al-Zrariyah
NC111745 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] A security source disclosed at 1700 that Israeli occupation forces have been searching the hills overlooking Al-Zrariyah using mortars and heavy-caliber machineguns. They have been preventing anyone, regardless of his identity, from entering or leaving the town. At 1705, enemy forces were still surrounding the town with tanks and APC's. They have also cut off the road at the Irzay-al-Zrariyah junction, and have been firing from tanks at anyone trying to enter the village. Reports from the south confirm that several military personnel and civilians were either killed or wounded in Al-Zrariyah. The Red Cross tried to enter the city three times, but the enemy forces kept firing at Red Cross personnel in order to prevent them from entering the town and giving medical help to the wounded.

Other security reports indicate that Israeli tanks began withdrawing from the hills overlooking the town at 1720. The Red Cross then entered the town, where dead and wounded people were seen in the streets. No exact casualty figures are available.

We have, however, obtained the names two persons who were killed: Nimr Salmani and Rida Muruwa. We have just learned that the enemy forces have again taken up positions in the hills overlooking Al-Zrariyah.

'Resistance Fighter' Kills 3 Israelis, Injures 4
LD120028 Kuwait KUNA in English 1619 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Beirut, March 11 (KUNA) — A lone Lebanese resistance fighter hurled two grenades at an Israeli Army truck and fired a burst of machinegun fire at a patrol in the centre of the two of Al-Nabitiyeh before disappearing into a sidestreet Monday.

A KUNA correspondent in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon said the guerrilla, standing on a street corner, lobbed the grenades at a jeep leading a five-vehicle convoy that was heading into the town before showering the patrol with bullets.

He ran off around a corner after a few seconds as Israeli troops began firing into sidestreets, he said.

Security sources said three Israeli soldiers had been killed in the attack and another four injured, one seriously, but there were no official Israeli casualty figures as yet. Troops sealed off the road and began searching nearby houses as helicopters flew out the casualties, the sources said.

Israeli 'Warships' Inspecting Vessels Off Coast
NC121233 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT
12 Mar 85

[Text] Two Israeli warships have been spotted cruising in the open sea opposite Al-Jiyah and Sidon. The warships are subjecting vessels to strict searches.

'Gunboats' Escorting U.S. Task Force Off Coast
NC111412 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic
1400 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] We have just received a report saying that gunboats were spotted a short while ago off the Lebanese coast. The gunboats are, most likely, escorting the aircraft carrier *Eisenhower* and the cruiser *Mississippi*.

Amal's Haydar on Operations Against Israel
NC100742 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0545 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Akif Haydar, the Amal Movement Political Bureau chief, expects that there will be further serious operations against Israel. He emphasized that vis-a-vis Israel's unceasing crimes we cannot rule out that we will take the battle to the heart of Israel.

He expressed the view that the second phase of the Israeli withdrawal will take place early and that the final phase will be the most difficult.

Shaykh Shams Al-Din Escapes Assassination Attempt
NC120648 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0626 GMT
12 Mar 85

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council, escaped an assassination attempt last night while making a social call in the Saqiyat al-Jan'ir area [of Beirut]. According to reports, a problem arose between some of Shaykh Shams al-Din's companions and gunmen in the area. They immediately opened fire on Shaykh Shams al-Din, killing one of those with him, Rashad Farhat, and wounding Hisham Mudayrah and Khidr Hammud. The gunmen had Shaykh Shams al-Din surrounded for some time before his bodyguards managed to get him back to his home in Harat Hurayk.

Commenting on the incident, the deputy leader of the Supreme Islamic Shi'ite Council said: What happened was not normal. However, we won't allow it be exploited in order to kindle sedition, which is what Israel wants.

Sha'ban's Friday Sermon Advocates Regime's Fall
NC110837 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 9 Mar 85 p3

[Text] In his Friday sermon, which was delivered at the great Al-Mansur Mosque, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, said: Lebanon has been established on oppression and corruption. All of us are experiencing this every day. We can see this corruption in the administration, dealings, and privileges enjoyed by one group of people and not by others.

Sha'ban added: The country's financial system permits people to speculate in order to impoverish everybody. There is no deterrent to stop the mass impoverishment process which is being practiced by the head of the regime and the head of the authority. The people have no shepherd and a flock without a shepherd will be eaten by the werewolves, monopolists, and usurers.

Sha'ban went on: Isn't domination of the people through atheism and oppression forbidden? Therefore, oppression will collapse so that the rule of God can then be established on this land.

Sha'ban affirmed: We cannot add another brick to the edifice of oppression. Let all the edifices of injustice collapse over the heads of the deceptive people. Let the Lebanese state fall, let the Maronite Phalangist legitimacy fall, and be damned by God.

Shaykh Sha'ban added: We will continue to follow the righteous path. We will continue to seek the overthrow of the Maronite Phalangist state most earnestly and with all our strength and resolution even if the lira and all houses, villages, and cities must collapse so that they may be built with faith afterwards.

Phalange Mobilization Chief Dismissal Detailed
NC111546 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] The Phalangist Party's Political Bureau and Central Council today discussed the results of the meetings that took

place in Bikfayya in the presence of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The Political Bureau expressed satisfaction with the efforts that should be completed with good intentions to end the state of war, through dealing with the security, political, economic, and social situations. The Political Bureau then heard a report on the situation in southern Lebanon and Beirut. It also discussed some administrative issues.

After discussion, the Bureau unanimously decided to expel Dr Samir Ja'ja' [chief of mobilization branch of the Lebanese Forces] from the Phalangist Party.

Chief Declares 'General Alert'

NC111705 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1230 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Samir Ja'ja' has issued threats [tahdidat] to the Phalangist Party leader [Dr Elie Karamah] and to all officials loyal to Amin al-Jumayyil. Ja'ja' accompanied these threats by a declaration of general alert among his followers.

The military and political wings of the Phalangist Party in the Kasrawan District have declared their solidarity with Ja'ja'.

It is known that the real Phalangist ruler of this district is Joseph Tutunji, brother of Solange al-Jumayyil, the widow of Bashir al-Jumayyil.

News Conference Held

NC111726 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1730 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] According to the latest reports arriving from the Phalangist-controlled areas, Phalangist Samir Ja'ja' has brought in military vehicles to reinforce the Al-Barbarah roadblock. Ja'ja' held a news conference yesterday, which the Voice of the Mountain and Radio Monte Carlo exclusively reported. Under pressure and threat, Monte Carlo radio correspondent George Bashir did not dare rebroadcast the report.

The Phalangist Party Command suppressed the publication of the news conference in Lebanese newspapers. At the news conference, Ja'ja' attacked the president, saying: There is no Christian leadership after Bashir al-Jumayyil. He demanded that the current leadership of the Phalangist Party be replaced. In reaction to this, supporters of Samir Ja'ja' printed the proceedings of the news conference on leaflets which were distributed in Jubayl and its environs.

Netherlands Renews Participation in UNIFIL
NC090707 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0545 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] The Netherlands Government has decided to extend the participation of its contingent in UNIFIL for another 6 months, following the end of its current term on 19 April.

Al-Asad Sends Condolences on Chernenko's Death*JN111535 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1505 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] Damascus, 11 Mar (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of condolences to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers on the death of Konstantin Chernenko, CPSU general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The following is the text of the cable:

We received with sorrow and regret the news of the death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, after a life full of great services to his homeland and of struggle in the cause of peace and socialism.

We share with you the grief over the loss of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko and recall with gratitude his concern over strengthening friendship and cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR and his support for our people's struggle against the Israeli occupation and the hostile imperialist and Israeli plots.

Comrade Chernenko, whom we knew closely, was a person worthy of respect, and a struggler who placed his long experience in struggle at the service of the Soviet Union, in order to strengthen people's struggle to establish sound relations based on justice among the people of the world.

On behalf of the Syrian people, in my own name, and in the name of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party leadership, I send to you, to the friendly Soviet people, and to Comrade Chernenko's family, our heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy.

Al-Asad To Take Constitutional Oath 12 Mar*JN120637 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 12 Mar 85*

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad will take the oath for a new constitutional term in a big celebration to be held at the People's Assembly today on the occasion of his reelection and the 22d anniversary of the March revolution.

Romania's Manescu, Delegation Arrive 11 Mar*JN111501 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1407 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] Damascus, 11 Mar (SANA) — Romanian Vice President Manea Manescu arrived in Damascus today at the head of an official delegation for a visit to Syria.

He was received at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, several ministers, and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus.

The delegation includes Ion Stoian, deputy minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation; and Marcel Dinu and (Yanko Popescu), directors at the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Hold Talks With Al-Kasm*JN112100 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Romanian vice president Manea Manescu and his delegation at 1900 today. Al-Kasm and Manescu held a meeting at 1915 which was attended by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Salim Yasin, minister of economy and foreign trade; and 'Isam al-Na'ib, the assistant foreign minister. It was also attended by Ion Stoian, Romanian deputy minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation; Paraschiv Benescu, the Romanian ambassador in Damascus; and a number of Romanian experts. Discussion dealt with Syrian-Romanian relations, the economic and technical cooperation that exists between the two friendly countries, joint projects that are being implemented in various fields, and ways of developing Syrian-Romanian cooperation in all fields. Discussions also dealt with a number of international issues, the current developments in the region, and topics of common concern.

Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm held a banquet in the Al-Sharq Club this evening in honor of Manea Manescu. It was attended by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and a number of ministers and assistant ministers. It was also attended by the members of the Romanian delegation and the Romanian ambassador and embassy staff.

Palestine Broadcast on Jordanian-PLO Moves*JN091940 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Mar 85*

[Palestine Broadcast: From "On the Events" program]

[Excerpt] The Jordanian capital has started to make arrangements to pave the way for announcing a visit by a joint Jordanian-'Arafatist delegation to the U.S. capital. An Israeli envoy is expected to arrive in Washington to attend a session of unofficial direct negotiations with the Jordanian-'Arafatist delegation.

Foreign diplomatic and press circles in Amman believe that King Husayn may soon ask the Jordanian parliament to approve this step, on which he and Mubarak reached agreement in Al-Qhurdaqah. It is also expected that King Husayn will meet with his Cabinet members to nominate some of its Palestinian ministers to join the joint delegation as representatives of Jordan and the Palestinian side, according to King Husayn's viewpoint.

Palestine Broadcast on Futility of Peace Efforts*JN102055 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 10 Mar 85*

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the road to revolution and liberation. After claiming that they amended the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement, 'Arafat's henchmen went back on their lie and alleged that Jordan did not approve the change. By admitting their lie, these henchmen openly declare that they have become subservient to

the Jordanian regime. But is the Jordanian regime its own master? While 'Arafat's henchmen were going back on their claims, King Husayn was appealing to the Zionists to approve of his agreement with 'Arafat, saying that it is the last opportunity for Middle East peace. He also said that it now up to the United States to make whatever decision it wishes.

We would like to ask two questions: What could the king do if Washington considered the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement null and void, and demanded that the agreement be amended? What could the king and 'Arafat do if Israel rejected what the king called the last opportunity for peace? 'Arafat's henchmen have given the answer: They cannot overrule the king's decisions and will. For his part, the king has left Washington the freedom of choice, because he cannot do otherwise. As for his saying that his agreement with 'Arafat is the last peace opportunity, this is meaningless because the king cannot propose any alternative to this last opportunity. We mean by this a genuine alternative; we mean changing the course which the king, Mubarak, and 'Arafat

have decided to follow, and replacing it with the course of armed struggle with the enemy in order to force it to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

Since the king's statements do not contain a threat to the Zionists, and since they contain no practical elements, what will make the Zionists respect them? The king's chances are confined to one point — namely, the Israel's decision must be derived from Washington's decision; that Washington's decision will give some satisfaction to the king. Therefore, the sides to the Jordanian-'Arafatist-Egyptian equation are left in a state of suspension, hoping that Reagan will be able to influence Peres; that Reagan will be willing to reach a settlement deal in which the king and 'Arafat will be able to receive the bone which will be given to them from the body of the usurped Palestinian homeland. Is this logic worthy of respect? Can this logic lead to any result that the Arab masses will accept? The answer is clear: Those who stand on a platform of impotence, stripped of all weapons, cannot regain their rights.

IDF Moves Into Al-Zrariyah, 'Terrorists' Killed*TA111136 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1128 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] Twenty-four terrorists were killed today in the course of searches conducted by the IDF in the village of Al-Zrariyah in southern Lebanon. The IDF spokesman reports that an IDF unit began searching the village of Al-Zrariyah, 1 km west of the area under IDF control in the eastern sector of Lebanon. Twenty-four terrorists were killed in these searches. Many suspects were apprehended and large quantities of weapons were seized.

The operation in the village came in the wake of attacks and assaults in the sector, as well as reports of plans to attack our forces. The Lebanese Army was asked not to hinder the IDF operations, and only after it opened fire on our forces was fire returned. Ten Lebanese Army soldiers were detained. Our forces are still operating in the village and continuing their searches for weapons and terrorists. This was the IDF spokesman's announcement.

Further Report*TA111810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] The IDF killed 30 terrorists and demolished more than 10 houses in the Shi'ite village of Al-Zrariyah in southern Lebanon. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that among the killed was the commander of the squad that killed Colonel Avraham Eran with a roadside bomb about 2 months ago. During the operation, many weapons were found, as well as explosive materials and equipment to assemble roadside bombs and mines.

Our military correspondent comments that today's action was unprecedented in its scale. The village of Al-Zrariyah is located near the northern bank of the Al-Litani River and served as a convenient jumping-off point for the terrorists. Today several of them tried to flee from the village in cars loaded with explosive materials and weapons. In today's operation our forces suffered no casualties.

34 'Terrorists' Killed*TA120527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Mar 85*

[Text] The IDF spokesman has announced that 34 terrorists were killed and 7 wounded during the IDF operation in Al-Zrariyah. Dozens of suspected assailants have been detained. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal says that a debriefing carried out by the IDF after the operation has revealed that all the terrorists killed were wanted terrorists.

Several terrorists fled the village armed with weapons, and others fired RPG's before fleeing. No one in the village of Al-Zrariyah was injured. Our correspondent also reports that last night the IDF released the 20 Lebanese Army soldiers who had been detained during the incident.

Shamir Comments in Brussels on Lebanon, USSR*TA111218 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] In his first reaction to yesterday's event, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir — who is currently in Brussels for talks with EEC leaders — said that the terrorist attack should not influence the government's decisions on Lebanon and the order of priorities of the national unity government. Our correspondent David Witzthum was speaking with Minister Shamir.

[Begin Shamir recording] After several unsuccessful attempts, last night those people succeeded in perpetrating an abominable, wild, fanatic, and absolutely illogical attack against our soldiers who are busy implementing the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. I think that attacks of this type should not affect the Israeli Government's moves. The decisions made should be implemented but, at the same time, it is clear that all measures should be taken to foil such attacks and to prevent additional losses among IDF soldiers. [end recording]

Better Relations With USSR*TA112018 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by David Witzthum in Brussels on 11 March — recorded]

[Excerpt] [Witzthum] Following Konstantin Chernenko's death, do you think that we can expect any change in relations between Israel and the Soviet Union?

[Shamir] One ruler has died and another will replace him. Israel has always been willing to change the character of its relations with the Soviet Union.

[Witzthum] Is there any hint of a better opportunity for this now or in the near future?

[Shamir] At this point it is too early to talk about this. Israel, however, is alert, and will do everything possible to bring about a change for the better. [end recording]

MK Wilner to Moscow To Attend Chernenko Funeral*TA120543 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0530 GMT 12 Mar 85*

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 12 Mar (ITIM) — RAKAH Secretary General Knesset Member Me'ir Wilner departed this morning en route to Moscow to attend the funeral of Konstantin Chernenko, who died on Sunday.

Wilner will be the only Israeli representative at the funeral. Speaking to an ITIM correspondent prior to his departure, Wilner said that Soviet policy regarding Israel should not be expected to change when Mikhail Gorbachev assumes office. "Collective leadership has existed in the Soviet Union for over 30 years and policy is not determined by a single person," he noted.

Wilner expects to meet Gorbachev in the reception for all the overseas visitors attending the funeral. I also met Chernenko during Andropov's funeral, Wilner recalled.

Peres: IDF To Leave Lebanon By End of Summer

TA092103 Tel Aviv ITIM In Hebrew 2050 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Jerusalem, 9 Mar (ITIM) — Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has reiterated that Israel will not agree to the participation of PLO representatives in the talks suggested by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. "Talking and shooting are not compatible," the prime minister said.

Mr Peres was speaking to a United Jewish Appeal delegation at the Hilton Hotel in Jerusalem this evening. He said he had no confidence in PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat because he has avoided dealing with the main problems troubling the Middle East and continues to use terrorism to achieve his goals.

Mr Peres believes that Husayn could be an equal partner to a solution to the West Bank problem, a solution which would bring about peace between Israel and Jordan.

Referring to Lebanon, the prime minister said that the withdrawal would be completed by the end of summer. "The IDF is not withdrawing from Lebanon because it was beaten but because it has completed its mission," he noted. Most IDF soldiers will leave Lebanese territory and will protect the northern settlements from the northern border by means of a mobile defense. Prime Minister Peres pointed out that the Lebanese must realize that Israel is not their enemy, but that it will also not put up with attacks against it, regardless of where the terrorists are coming from.

Shamir on Lebanon Policy, Mubarak U.S. Visit

TA100949 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said this morning that Israel must continue with the heavy-handed policy in Lebanon. We must take into consideration the necessary means to explain our actions in the world, Shamir said.

The foreign minister refused to comment on a report published this morning regarding a meeting between the director general of the Prime Minister's Office and a Jordanian minister in Cairo. The prime minister's Office has already denied this report. Regarding Mubarak's visit to Washington, Shamir said no substantive change in the U.S.-Egyptian relations should be expected in the wake of this visit. The foreign minister was speaking to our correspondent 'Ido Tal at Ben-Gurion Airport before his departure for Europe.

Peres Says Army Must Defend Itself

TA111824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpts] This afternoon Prime Minister Shim'on Peres visited the Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer. He visited the men hos-

pitalized there and our correspondent Karmela Menashe accompanied the prime minister. Here is her report:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] At the end of the visit, the prime minister said that we have very serious problems of every type. He said that we had not asked to be targets of terrorism and we are not interested in whether it comes from Shi'ites or Palestinians.

[Peres] Those people know that the Cabinet decided to bring the IDF home and they are trying to plot against the lives of our soldiers without any need, without any justification, without any explanation. Every army must defend itself and every country must stand behind the army when it defends itself. It is not the terrorists who will decide on our plans; we ourselves will decide. I do not know of a single Israeli who has ever said we are entering Lebanon in order to remain there. It was clear to us all that we would leave. There has been an argument over whether we would leave earlier or later. We will leave, but not in a panic and not by surrendering. Anyone who fires at an IDF soldier will be fired at in return.

[Menashe] How is the IDF to cope with such a means of warfare?

[Peres] In every war, from time to time, there are new methods. It takes time in order to find a countermeasure, but countermeasures will be found.

[Menashe] On the possibility of holding talks with Lebanon, the prime minister said:

[Peres] We proposed talks to them, but they refused. The IDF will not initiate any provocations. It will not take the first shot. However, although it will not initiate provocations, it will not hesitate to defend itself with all the means at its disposal. [end recording]

Lubrani Calls For Liaison With Lebanese Army

TA080704 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon, by military correspondent Shmuel Tal on 8 March, by telephone — recorded]

[Text] [Tal] Good morning, Uri Lubrani.

[Lubrani] Good morning.

[Tal] Yesterday an Israeli soldier was killed by Lebanese Army fire. What has happened: Is the Lebanese Army another enemy?

[Lubrani] This is the direct outcome of the absence of a liaison between us and the Lebanese Army. Such incidents can happen wherever our forces are stationed near Lebanese Army units, and yet there is no working relationship to prevent such incidents from occurring.

[Tal] So why was everyone so surprised? After all, a few days ago President al-Jumayyil exhorted his soldiers to kill IDF soldiers?

[Lubrani] No, I do not think this exhortation carries such a simple message. I believe he wanted to encourage the so-called popular uprising. I suggest we regard this incident in the local, rather than national, context; it is not as though the Lebanese Army has launched a war against the IDF.

[Tal] Why does it seem to me that you appear to be minimizing the significance and gravity of this incident?

[Lubrani] I am not minimizing its importance at all. I think that every incident in which our soldiers are fired upon is a most serious event to which we must react appropriately. I am only saying that I do not regard this as a declaration of war by the Lebanese Army.

[Tal] Has the Lebanese Army been warned against the recurrence of such incidents, in light of yesterday's incident? Actually, this is the third such incident.

[Lubrani] True. It is the third, and I hope the last, although there is absolutely no guarantee that it is going to be the last. The Lebanese Army was warned by the IDF artillery.

[Tal] Uri Lubrani, there have been reports that Amal militiamen were actually deployed in the midst of the Lebanese Army unit and that our tank fire hit the Shi'ites. According to reports from Lebanon, two of them were killed. Is this a new phenomenon whereby Shi'ites are prodding the Lebanese Army to begin shooting?

[Lubrani] This is possible, since the Lebanese Army is a sectarian army and it may well be that the unit there was Shi'ite. Thus, we should not be surprised to learn that the Shi'ites shared the Lebanese Army soldiers' stronghold.

[Tal] Where do you think developments will lead in the near future, until the IDF withdraws to the Purple Line?

[Lubrani] We are now in the midst of the implementation of the second stage of the Cabinet's decision on withdrawal, which will be carried out as fast as possible. No doubt, there will be attacks while it is being implemented. We are trying — and the IDF is certainly making every effort — to minimize its exposure and limit the chances of its soldiers being hurt. However, this is a period during which we should prepare ourselves for all sorts of calamities.

[Tal] Many people are apprehensive about the beginning of the third stage, as they fear that an argument will erupt that will prevent its implementation. Do you share these apprehensions?

[Lubrani] I believe the Cabinet's decision is a package deal. What is happening now is that it is being carried out in phases. There may be a political debate, but I do not deal in politics. I believe the Cabinet's resolution will be implemented fully, according to schedule.

Herzog Says Israel Not Enemy of Shi'ites

TA110915 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0850 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] In reaction to the explosion in southern Lebanon yesterday, President Hayim Herzog said this morning that Israel was not and is not the enemy of the Shi'ite community in Lebanon. We did not have a hand in the murderous attacks which took place there recently, the president said. Israel's only concern is to ensure the safety of its citizens, and we shall continue to do everything with complete determination and firmness, but also within the framework of the criteria of civilized people, in order to remove any threat from our borders and to chop off any hand that intends to harm us, the president said.

Sharon Opposes 'Retreating' From Lebanon

TA111427 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1335 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] I do not believe in retreating from Lebanon, because the problems will follow us wherever we go. This was said by Minister Ari'el Sharon to our correspondent Shalom Oren:

[Begin Sharon recording] We must remember that we must find a solution, because if we are having difficulties in finding a solution now, what will happen when we reach the international border? All of us agree that we do not want to occupy any part of Lebanon. However, if we are running into difficulties today, then we must understand that in several months the difficulties will be much more serious, and we must make every effort to find a solution. I am convinced that there is a solution for every situation, and this difficult situation can also be settled. [end recording]

Minister Ari'el Sharon sent his condolences to the families of the fallen soldiers, and wished a quick recovery to the wounded.

Knesset Motions Call for Immediate Withdrawal

TA111047 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Knesset members [MK] have submitted urgent motions for the agenda, requesting that a decision be made to withdraw immediately from Lebanon. Our correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli reports that they are MK's Aloni, Grossman, Wilner, Virshubsky, Peled, and Shemtov. MK Avner Sciaki of the National Religious Party wants a reexamination of the withdrawal plans. 'Uzi Landau called on the prime minister and the defense minister to respond appropriately to the war of attrition which the Syrians are conducting against us. Hayim Druckman says the withdrawal is not urgent, and whoever proposes withdrawal also invites a continuation of terrorism. Ten motions for the agenda on the issue of Lebanon have so far been submitted.

Sources Say IDF Unlikely To Accelerate Withdrawal

TA111610 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] The government has no intention of discussing suggestions for an accelerated IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. This was said

by government sources to our political correspondent. The prime minister, the defense minister, and most of the ministers believe that the original withdrawal plans should be followed. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

A delegation of National Religious Party [NRP] leaders went to Shim'on Peres' office this morning for a meeting which was scheduled a long time ago. Naturally, the meeting dealt with recent events in Lebanon. Minister Yosef Burg said: I heard this morning that one minister said the withdrawal should be accelerated, whereas another minister said that we should halt the withdrawal. It is not good for many different voices to be heard at this time. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres agreed, and said that the statements made today were unnecessary and that they do not help. When we asked for the reaction of Peres' office to the various suggestions about accelerating the withdrawal, we were told that the prime minister does not believe that now is the right time to discuss these issues. Government circles told us that the government is not scheduled to discuss changing the plans for the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon. The sources believe that if the issue is raised by one of the ministers in the Cabinet session next Sunday, the prime minister will suggest dropping it.

It appears that yesterday's attack widened the rift between the ministers who believe we should withdraw from Lebanon as soon as possible and those who demand an increased Israeli presence in the security zone area. However, most of the ministers — headed by the prime minister and the defense minister — still believe that we should follow the original plans approved by the Cabinet. In recent discussions the defense minister explained that the IDF is withdrawing from Lebanon as quickly as possible, and that the duration of the withdrawal process stems from logistic needs. Moreover, it appears that the government wants to avoid a move which would be interpreted as a surrender to Shi'ite-Palestinian terrorism. Israel is suffering — even without this — from a deterioration of its image in Lebanon. Even if the withdrawal process is somewhat shortened, this would only be a very minor change — not publicly announced — and which would not affect the freedom of activity of the IDF.

D. Levi Says 'Heavy-Handed' Policy to Continue

TA11856 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Interview in Hebrew with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi by unidentified correspondent on 11 March; place not given — recorded]

[Text][Levi] This is a very serious incident [the 10 March car bomb killing 12 Israeli soldiers] and it was extremely costly. The IDF will do everything necessary in order to react in the appropriate way to such madness, but we certainly must not talk about it now. A kind of madness is engulfing this divided country in which logic and wisdom fail to govern. Instead suicide, blood, and murder — among themselves, between themselves and others, against us — reign indiscriminately. We will do everything necessary, in parallel with our decision to withdraw from Lebanon, to carry this out as well as preserve our security. Everything that should be done, will be done — dispassionately and sensitively, but also firmly and confidently. I want to express my

condolences to the bereaved families, and wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded.

[Correspondent] Mr Minister, recently many voices — within the government as well — have called for accelerating the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon. Do you think that such an attack strengthens the case of these people?

[Levi] The attack was an act of madness. As for the decision which we approved: The IDF is responsible for the type of deployment, and it is not limited by time constraints. It is, however, dependent on logistics. It is inconceivable for a chance incident to change our plans and the government's decision. We have made the decision to withdraw; the IDF is making all the preparations, and the duration and type of withdrawal depends on it. As to steps that must be taken against this madness, and against terrorism of any kind — they will be taken as they have been in the past. The heavy-handed policy will continue to be pursued in every place we are deployed. This is in no way connected with the government's decision to withdraw from Lebanon. In the future as well we will take every measure possible to destroy this danger, while at the same time striving to cultivate as much as possible good relations with the population. We must not see an analogy between the terrorists and an innocent population with which we will have to live tomorrow, and I hope with good-neighborly relations. We must think about tomorrow as well. [end recording]

Lt Gen Levi Says Terrorism Must Be Expected

TA112033 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in the chief of staff's office on 11 March — recorded]

[Text][Levi] This is a painful day for the families of the soldiers who died in yesterday's attack; it is a painful day for the IDF and for the people of Israel. On behalf of the IDF, I send my condolences to the families and my wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded.

[Shlonsky] Mr Chief of Staff, least weekend there were reports that the Shi'ites intended to carry out a suicide attack. Does the IDF not have answers to Shi'ite terrorism in southern Lebanon?

[Levi] Confronting terrorism means an ongoing struggle and not expecting magic formulas. The IDF is aware of the ramifications of what I am saying right now and is dealing with this issue. I believe that — with all the sorrow I feel — we will have to continue to deal with terrorism of various kinds for an extended period, even along the international border with Lebanon.

[Shlonsky] As for the issue of kamikaze terrorism, does the IDF have an answer to this form of terrorism?

[Levi] There are various kinds of answers. Kamikaze attacks did not begin yesterday. We have had more severe attacks than yesterday's. This form of terrorism not only affects the IDF, but many groups in Lebanon. The answer to this is very complicated

because we are dealing here with someone you cannot personally hold responsible, and apparently such people do exist. We must deal here with extremely complicated systems of security and with activities that cannot guarantee that such events will not take place. I want to note that a force cannot be deployed in the territory without being mobile, and this mobility is vulnerable not only to kamikaze terrorists, but also to roadside bombs and other forms of attack, in which we have also sustained many casualties. We are considering different ways and are trying to decrease this mobility. A great deal of our operational activity is done by small foot patrols, with the aim of avoiding these kinds of situations and protecting the routes as well. The effort should be toward a combined military operation — and a constant effort to exhaust the possibility of decreasing the area of friction between us and the Shi'ites.

[Shlonsky] Perhaps this friction can be decreased by completing the withdrawal from the eastern sector now instead of waiting for summer?

[Levi] I do not think there is a decision to wait until summer. We are faithful to the decision which stated — on the basis of a comprehensive evaluation of the situation, rather than an evaluation based on the events of 1 day — that we will evacuate Lebanon and ensure the security of our northern border by deploying along the international border. This must be done in an orderly way, in a way which will allow us — following the evacuation of Lebanon — to secure the border. I would not want us to make a move — on the basis of yesterday's tragic attack — which might seem appropriate for the next few days, but might demand a high price in the not too distant future.

[Shlonsky] Early this morning we heard that the IDF was active in the village of Al-Zrariyah, which is beyond the line currently held by the IDF, and again we heard of confrontations with the Lebanese Army. Was this operation planned following yesterday's attack?

[Levi] Certainly not. Several attacks against our forces occurred from the area of Al-Zrariyah and we collected evidence to the effect that in this area a force was organizing to attack our forces. We have always defined our missions as attempts to foil attacks on our forces. [end recording]

MA'ARIV, YEDI'OT AHARONOT on Car Bomb

TA110952 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Review of Midday press editorials]

[Text] MA'ARIV writes that the uncontrolled method of mass murder through car bombs is apparently the Shi'ites' basic contribution to international terrorism. There is no certainty that groups of Shi'ite zealots will not export their murder methods to Western Europe. The prime minister perhaps referred to this yesterday when he denounced terrorists who ride in booby-trapped vehicles and kill indiscriminately while declaring that this is the will of God.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT asks what can be done. The heart says to speed up the withdrawal, but logic makes it difficult to do as the heart wants. It is clear that fleeing will only pour oil on the fire of Lebanese madness. Perhaps the right path is to convince the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon that their fate with the terrorist organizations will be worse than that with the IDF.

IDF, ASL Attacked Five Times in South Lebanon

TA110623 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] Five attacks against IDF and army of southern Lebanon [ASL] soldiers took place in southern Lebanon last night. There were no casualties. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that katyusha rockets, mortar shells, and RPG's were fired twice at IDF positions on the Al-Qasimiyah bridge. They were fired from an area north of the Al-Litani River and from the Shi'ite villages east of Tyre. ASL forces in the areas of Al-Zrariyah and Tibnin were attacked three times last night with RPG's and automatic weapons fire. The fire was returned. As stated, there were no casualties in any of these incidents.

Traffic South of Al-Litani Restricted

TA111255 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1248 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] The IDF authorities have banned single drivers from moving in their cars in the area south of the Al-Litani River. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that pamphlets bearing these instructions were distributed in all the villages down to the international border.

The IDF authorities today closed the Al-Khardali Bridge on the Al-Litani River to Lebanese vehicles transporting goods to the south. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal adds that such goods will be loaded on vehicles of inhabitants living south of the Al-Litani River.

Army on Access to Journalists in S. Lebanon

TA081833 Jerusalem Domestic Service In English 1800 GMT
8 Mar 85

[Text] The Army has reacted to the Foreign Press Association's protest at limitations on reporters' access to south Lebanon. The Association's protest came after the Army expelled 14 Beirut-based journalists from areas under Israeli Army control. It also complained of lack of access to south Lebanon by Israeli-based correspondents.

The Army spokesman said the reason for the restrictions was to protect correspondents and soldiers alike. The Army said it is responsible for the safety of correspondents who must be escorted by soldiers and this entails risks for the soldiers. The spokesman said the Army could therefore not permit the uncontrolled movement of persons in areas it controls in south Lebanon. He said existing policy would continue.

New Christian Militia Established in S. Lebanon*TA081344 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Mar 85 p 2*

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpts] Half-tracks, armored personnel carriers, jeeps carrying recoilless guns, command cars equipped with heavy machine-guns, and mobile mortars — this is only part of the huge arsenal currently being readied by a new Christian militia which has been established in the area evacuated by the IDF exactly 3 weeks ago in order to protect the Christian population along the Al-Awwali — which at present enjoys only the protection of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL].

In the small Christian villages which are located south of the Al-Awwali, from the Christian village of (Falus) toward Sidon, to the outskirts of Christian Jazzin — there is today an independent "Christian state," which is "clear" of other communities, and which has a military force — the ASL battalion — meant to protect it from its enemies.

The inhabitants of this "Christian state" believe — and their belief is reinforced by rumors coming from Israel — that following the withdrawal of the IDF from the area of Jazzin in the framework of the second phase of the IDF's withdrawal, the ASL will also "retreat" from the almost independent "Christian state." Who will protect the "Christian canton" and Jazzin after the ASL leaves the area following the IDF's withdrawal?

The new militia hopes to answer this problem. This militia has been established in the "Christian state" which is outside the area held by the IDF, and whose headquarters is located in the village of Al-Humsiyah on the Jazzin-Sidon road. IDF soldiers and Israelis are forbidden entrance to the "Christian canton." Despite this fact, the leaders of the new Christian militia agreed to host an Israeli correspondent in their headquarters for the first time.

"At this stage we have decided to keep a low profile," said one of the leaders of the militia. He claimed that these were the orders coming from "Christian Beirut." All that can be said about this man is that he is a tall and handsome man who is known as one of the young leaders of the Christian community in Lebanon.

Our interlocutor is officially a member of the large Christian party which supports the "Lebanese Forces." The latter in their turn unite the Phalange with Sham'un's "Tigers." However, contrary to the situation in Beirut, in the "Christian state" along the Al-Awwali the "Lebanese Forces" militia has no opposition. This is perhaps the only area in Lebanon where the Christians of all parties and factions have decided to unite — due to the danger facing them.

All the Christian factions in this area have established a coalition called "The Free Christian Organization," and they have promised each other not to abandon the Al-Awwali area and to protect themselves with force, with the help of the "forces" which will be sent from Beirut.

At present approximately 1,000 fighters are already at the disposal of the militia — half of them from the area, and the other

half sent from Beirut to protect the "Christian canton." One of their leaders divulged for the first time: "We are already well equipped. We have everything we need except for tanks. This is our insurance policy for our continued existence here after you leave Jazzin and the ASL leaves our 'Christian canton'."

Our interlocutor said that he intends to convince the Israeli Government to leave the ASL in the area even after the next phase of the withdrawal is completed. "However, I am sure that I will not succeed due to the social and political situation in Israel at present. We are truly sensitive to your internal problems, and we do not want you to die for us — God forbid — but do not forget that you will never be able to dissociate yourselves from Lebanon. Even if you do not want to have any kind of attachment with Lebanon, and our president does not want any attachment with you — you cannot change geography. Lebanon will remain here and your problems will remain here."

Shahal Leaves For France to Discuss Reactors*TA110713 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0710 GMT 11 Mar 85*

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 11 Mar (ITIM) — Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal left this morning for Paris on board an El Al plane, to continue the discussion on the procurement of atomic reactors for the production of electricity in Israel. He will return to Israel at the end of the week.

Transportation Minister Returns from Argentina*TA081627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Mar 85*

[Text] Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu conferred with members of Argentina's Transportation Ministry in Buenos Aires, and discussed the possibility of signing an aviation agreement between Argentina and Israel. He also visited New York where he closely followed the discussions with the El Al Airline workers who have been on strike for almost a year. Corfu returned to Israel this afternoon.

Israeli Pavilion in Cairo Trade Fair Opens*TA101944 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Mar 85*

[Excerpt] The Israeli pavilion at the International Trade Fair in Cairo — in which 60 countries are participating — was opened today to the public. Sixty Israeli companies are displaying their goods in the Israeli pavilion. This is the 5th consecutive year that Israel has participated in this annual fair. In past years deals were made between Israeli exporters and Egyptian representatives during the fair. This year the Egyptian authorities have promised not to prevent local importers from purchasing Israeli goods. The fair was opened by Egyptian Minister of Defense and War Production Marshal Abu Ghazalah.

HADASH, PLO Reject Bid for 'Arab Peace Movement'*TA101039 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Mar 85 p 3*

[Report from the Galilee by 'Atallah Mansur]

[Text] HADASH and the Progressive List for Peace [PLP] have rejected the proposal raised by Knesset Member [MK] 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah (from the Alignment) to establish an "Arab peace movement." The HADASH spokesman said that in the opinion of his party there is no room for the Arabs to organize separately for peace. 'Uzi Burstein added that this is such a matter of principle that it is shared by all the citizens of the country. The PLO said similar things. MK Darawshah said that he will persist in trying to establish this movement even without the consent of these two parties, and will try to summon new personalities and public figures, on a personal basis.

HA'ARETZ notes that the rejection of Darawshah's idea appears to come against the background of personal and partisan jealousy.

Qatzav Responds to ILO Report on West Bank*TA101831 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 10 Mar 85*

[Text] A three-man ILO delegation laid its findings on the labor and employment conditions of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza residents on Labor and Social Welfare Minister Moshe Qatzav's table this afternoon. This is the eighth visit by a delegation from this organization to Israel, and this time its members studied the improvement that has occurred in employment conditions of Arabs in the territories. Here are more details about the committee's findings in a report by our correspondent Menahem Friedman.

[Friedman] The three-member delegation spent 10 days in Israel to examine employment and working conditions in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. During their stay, the delegation members visited industrial plants in Israel, employment offices, and vocational training centers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Today, at the end of the professional part of its visit, the delegation laid its findings on the table of Minister of Labor and Social Welfare Moshe Qatzav. The delegation members refrained from giving interviews to the media. What is prominent in the report they presented is their attitude toward two problems: wages and unemployment. Minister Moshe Qatzav replied to the criticism:

[Begin Qatzav recording] Of course the scale of unemployment within the Green Line is also leaving its mark on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District; however, the economic situation is not gravely affecting the areas of Judaea and Samaria and, in this context, nor is it affecting employment. As for the matter of wages, well, labor costs are equal. In order to maintain equality in the cost of hiring someone who is a resident of Judaea, Samaria, or the Gaza District — equality with the Israeli employee — all payments to the National Insurance Institute that do not provide all the same benefits that the Israeli is entitled to are initially accumulated in a special fund administered by the military government. This fund is used to finance development budgets for services in Judaea and Samaria. [end recording]

[Friedman] To the criticism, the delegation members added their good impressions of the improvement that has occurred in the employment conditions of Arabs in the territories. Some 23 centers of vocational training and 33 employment offices serve the population of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Recently the subjects being studied in the vocational training centers have been expanded, and electronics, electricity, and ladies hair-dressing can now also be studied.

Bi'r Zayt To Remain Closed for Two Months*TA081259 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1250 GMT 8 Mar 85*

[Text] Jerusalem, 8 Mar (ITIM) — The Defense Ministry spokesman has issued the following statement: Bi'r Zayt University's new campus will be closed for 2 months. The decision was made by the defense establishment in light of what was discovered on campus late last week, and following investigations and searches which were carried out in the course of the week.

As will be recalled, large quantities of all sorts of inflammatory material were found there, as well as an exhibition on the new campus on the occasion of the anniversary of the establishment of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

In the course of searches at the university, several dozen people who were on the premises for the purpose of organizing the exhibition were detained for questioning. The investigation is expected to continue, and additional detentions are also expected.

POST: Consensus Not To Talk To PLO 'Nonsense'*TA101035 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Mar 85 p 8*

[Commentary by editorial staff member Me'ir Merhav: "A Consensus of Nonsense"]

[Text] There is a national consensus: Israel will not talk to the PLO. That consensus has always been utter nonsense, at least for those who do not want Israel to become a binational state, or, worse still, an apartheid regime.

But it took the latest initiative of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, following upon the Husayn-'Arafat agreement, to make everyone who counts in Israeli politics declare once again that we shall never, never talk to the PLO.

Israel undertook, in the Camp David accords, to talk to the Palestinians about their future. No matter that during the seven long and lean years of the Likud's reign everything possible and impossible was done to renege on that commitment and to postpone the autonomy talks to the Greek Calends — the commitment to Palestinian participation in any negotiations over the future of the West Bank and Gaza remains binding on any government of Israel.

The crux of Mubarak's initiative is not negotiations with the Jordanian king. It is not a renewal of the peace momentum initiated by the late Anwar al-Sadat. It is not an attempt to prod the Americans into pressuring Israel to budge it from its

immobilism, and much less is it the public relations ploy as it has been portrayed in Israel.

The crux of the initiative is to get Israel to talk to the Palestinians, because without talking to them there can be no solution to the Palestinian problem, and without a solution of the Palestinian problem there can be no peace in the Middle East, Egypt will not be able to regain its leadership of the Arab world, and its peace with Israel will remain, at best, frozen.

What Palestinians are we willing to accept as partners to negotiations? Not representatives of the PLO, not anyone nominated by the PLO. The moderates among us squirm and say that we will not look too closely into the political biography of any Palestinians who may sit across from us at the negotiating table.

These negotiators may sympathize with the PLO; they may voice its positions; they may even, on the quiet, really be PLO nominees — as long as they are not officially members of that organization, and as long as they abjure terrorism, do not call for the destruction of the State of Israel as stated in the Palestinian Covenant, do not insist on their right to Jerusalem, or claim rights of return for Palestinian refugees or other such PLO demands.

Now it would clearly be fine for Israel if such "moderate" Palestinians could not only be found, but also if they could be imbued with the power to make agreements that would be binding upon their fellow nationals.

That, however, is not the case. There are no doubt many Palestinians today who are ready to abjure terrorism and give up the armed struggle against Israel, if only for the practical reason that they have come to realize that the Palestinians do not have the power to vanquish Israel by force.

There are others who may be willing to give up the dream of returning to Yafo, Haifa, Lod, Ramla and to the villages and towns where they or their forebears were born.

Some may even be willing to share Jerusalem with Israel, and a few may be prepared to accept — with clenched teeth — that Israel will hold on to territories it considers vital for its security.

But no Palestinian, however, "moderate" in Israeli eyes, will waive the right to self-determination — the right to national sovereignty over however small a homeland of their own. And no Palestinian signature on any agreement will be binding unless it can be seen to satisfy Palestinian national aspirations.

Which Palestinians are we, then, to talk to if we really mean to talk to any? Shall we talk only to those who will not be authorized to speak on behalf of their fellow-nationals or, if given some sort of ex ante authorization, will be disowned and rejected, if not worse, the moment they depart from what is acceptable to the PLO, which speaks for the majority of the Palestinians?

There is a cynical rationale in trying to speak to such non-PLO Palestinians. "Negotiating" with Palestinians who do not represent anyone except themselves, reaching a "settlement" with some carefully chosen "notables," only to have it rejected by the Palestinians, is a sure way for Israel to demonstrate it has been

conciliatory, and at the same time ensure that nothing will come of such talks. That will make it possible to demonstrate to ourselves and to the rest of the world that "there is really no one to talk to."

Such a cynical approach wonderfully suits the annexationists, not only of the Likud but also those in the ranks of Labour. They do not really want to talk to any Palestinians, be they moderate or extremist. They do not want a solution of the Palestinian problem because to this day they do not see that it really is the problem of Israel's existence and survival as a democratic Jewish nation-state.

But even our rejectionists dimly sense that what is really at stake is the recognition, first and foremost, by the Palestinians of Israel's legitimacy and its right to exist. Somehow the rights derived from the Bible and from history are not quite enough for practical politics. That is why even a Yitzhaq Shamir says that if the PLO would abjure the Palestinian Covenant, with its aim of destroying Israel as a political entity, and if it would turn its back on terrorism, then it would no longer be the PLO. The implicit inference is that it would then be an acceptable partner for negotiations.

There are, however, Israelis for whom the Palestinian problem is the problem of Israel; those who do not want Israel to become, in the most favourable case, a binational state or to remain forever a walled-in fortress surviving from one war to the next and paying the debts of each war in between. They must ask themselves today if it makes any sense to talk to anyone but to the PLO itself.

Whether we like it or not, it is clearly the PLO which alone can speak for the Palestinians. True, even if we agree to sit down to negotiate with official representatives of the PLO there would be no assurance that a settlement reached with them would be honoured by all, or even most, of the various factions in the PLO, or by the rejectionist Arab states.

But it is certain that no other spokesman for the Palestinians will be able to put their hand to any settlement that is not acceptable to the PLO. Anything they might discuss with us will be subject to the PLO's veto.

And, not being official representatives of the organization that, to our chagrin, is the only one that can claim to speak on behalf of the Palestinians, such "acceptable" negotiators will not even be able to agree on what the PLO as such might possibly be brought to accept. They will always have to be more obdurate than the PLO itself.

Negotiating with would-be representatives of the kind that would be acceptable to us is to play into the hands of those factions in the PLO which are the counterparts of our own rejectionists. Both are united in the goal of ensuring the failure of negotiations — if they cannot be avoided from the outset.

If Israel ever wants to settle its conflict with the Arabs, it will have to swallow the bitter pill of speaking to those who represent the Palestinians. True, the PLO is Israel's mortal enemy. It is not prepared, under any circumstances, to accept the validity of the Zionist tenets on which the existence of Israel rests. It claims,

and will continue to claim, political and historical rights not only to the areas populated by Palestinians, but also to those from which the Palestinians were expelled in 1948.

The PLO's mainstream faction may in practice today be prepared to settle for less than was envisaged in the Palestinian Covenant — but there is no sign that it has abandoned its strategic aims, and there is no certainty that its tactical retreat to the demand for a Palestinian state in the areas occupied by Israel in 1967 will be accepted by all its factions and by the rejectionist Arab states.

Nor is there any certainty that the attainment of that tactical objective will not be a springboard for reviving the long-range goal of eliminating the State of Israel.

It is true, too, that the PLO is not prepared to abandon what it calls the "armed struggle," which in reality is not a guerrilla war against the armed forces and the power structure of a foreign conqueror, but a strategy of indiscriminate terror against civilians.

But if we want peace, with whom shall we make it if not with our mortal enemies? Who shall we talk to if not to those with whom talk is to replace bombs and shooting?

Moreover, have we not since 1967 done everything in our power to deny the Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza any political expression? Have we not, by suppressing any form of political organization, made sure that the PLO would have a monopoly in expressing the political will of the Palestinians? Have our governments — Labour and Likud alike — not really welcomed having no partner with whom to negotiate?

The time has come to jettison the ballast of obsolete vows. Even Menahem Begin had to abandon Golda Meir's arrogant declaration that "there are no Palestinians." If a Palestinian nation is a political reality, it is only they who can choose and appoint their spokesmen, not us, not King Husayn, not President Mubarak.

But even if the choice of negotiating partners was really ours to make, proxy representatives of the PLO would be the worst of all possible choices that Israel might make. They will not go as far as direct representatives of the PLO might possibly go, and even if they did adopt a position that the PLO itself might accept, they will be disowned just because the Palestinians will not see them as their genuine representatives.

Instead of asking for proxies for those who have, or at least claim to have, authority, Israel should rather insist on speaking directly to those who will, in any case, be the manipulators of the "acceptable" negotiators.

What political wisdom is there in leaving them free to make demands and extract concessions, without committing themselves to anything?

How long must it take, how many more wars must we fight, how many lives must be wasted and how crushing must the economic burden become for the realization to sink in that the PLO, detestable as it may appear to us, is the representative of the

Palestinians and holds the power of veto over anything that any Arab state or any group of Palestinians might agree on in an Arab-Israeli settlement.

AL-SHA'B Editorial on International Conference

JN102119 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Mar 85 p 1

[Editorial: "The International Conference"]

[Text] During the past few days, the Palestinian officials have confirmed the PLO's commitment to the concept of an international conference as the only acceptable framework for searching for a just and lasting solution to the region's issue.

There are several basic facts related to the concept of an international conference — namely, that this conference will be convened under the auspices of the United Nations, whose General Assembly has supported the Palestinian people's right to self-determination through several resolutions, and that it must be held with the participation of the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council and the parties to the conflict. The Israeli-U.S. categorical hostility to and rejection of convening such a conference expresses the desire to continue the U.S. monopoly of peace efforts in the region, and to continue unilateral deals with the Arab states in order to force them to make concessions. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's initiative has encouraged this Israeli-U.S. course, and has excluded the concept of an international conference under the auspices of international legitimacy and in the presence of the USSR, with its effective weight and role as a superpower that supports Palestinian rights.

Despite the fact that it is impossible to convene an international conference now — due to the stands of Washington, Israel, and some Arab states — it is important to continue the insistence on convening it. It is also very important to gain support for it, in order to confront the proposals of imperialism and its allies. This insistence must be accompanied by mobilizing Arab potential, because convening an international conference would change the balance of power in the region — a balance that is currently not in favor of the Arab people.

AL-QUDS Supports Jordanian-Palestinian Accord

JN111126 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 2 Mar 85 p 1

[Editorial: "The Best Available"]

[Text] In recent days the Middle East has been the scene of intensive moves beginning with the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the vast Arab and international reaction to it, and followed by the Egyptian role represented in President Husni Mubarak's initiative, whose major points are still obscure.

Despite all these moves, the exchange of envoys, and the many statements of support and denunciation, the fact remains that the PLO is an indivisible part of the peace process in the Middle East. No one has denied that the PLO is the only framework through which the various factions of the Palestinian people can effectively participate in attaining a lasting, comprehensive, and just

peace. The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement reaffirmed this when it proposed negotiations through an international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO. In spite of the fact that there is a controversy about the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, we aspire to have a joint Arab delegation comprising Jordan, Egypt, Syria, the PLO, and Lebanon.

A joint delegation in no case means any authorization or delegation of power. In order to give the Arab negotiator more strength, it is necessary for him to act in accordance with a solid basis whose strength will stem from an Arab strategy for political moves.

The U.S.-Israeli stand is the major obstacle to peace in the region. U.S.-Israeli insistence on rejecting the idea of an international conference and PLO participation clearly shows the real intentions of these parties. Anyone who really wishes to establish a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East should realize that the PLO is the key to a real Arab participation in any future negotiations.

The Middle East problem began within a broad international framework and we cannot see how it can be solved in the absence of such a framework. To those who seek real peace, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is the best of what is available for achieving this sacred objective.

ALGERIA

President Sends Condolences on Chernenko's Death

LD111916 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid has just sent a message of condolences to the Soviet leaders following the death of President Konstantin Chernenko.

The president of the National People's Assembly, Rabat Bitat, has also sent a message of condolences to the president of the Soviet of the Union and the president of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The announcement of President Chernenko's death came over our teleprinters at around noon [as heard] and this afternoon Moscow officially announced, following this death, the election of Mikhail Gorbachev, aged 54, as chairman of the funeral arrangements committee and as general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

This election occurred at the plenum of the Central Committee held a few hours after the death of President Konstantin Chernenko.

Reportage on Visit of Spanish Prime Minister**Arrives 11 March**

LD111229 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez arrived this morning in Algeria on a 24-hour official visit. He was welcomed at Haouri Boumedien International Airport by President Chadli Bendjedid and the members of the Political Bureau and the government.

In a statement to the press Mr Gonzalez said, in particular, that the Spanish Labor Socialist Party maintains solid relations with the FLN party as well as with the other organizations in north Africa, and that the road is open today to develop these relations between the two countries.

Holds Talks With President

LD120018 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Excerpt] President and party Secretary General Chadli Bendjedid and Felipe Gonzalez, prime minister of Spain, this afternoon held private political talks.

Later the talks were widened to include members of the two delegations.

At noon the president gave a working luncheon at the Ginan al-Mithaq villa in honor of the Spanish premier who arrived in Algiers for a 24-hour official visit.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Condolences to Soviet Leaders

LD120920 Tripoli JANA in English 0816 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani, 12 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — JANA learnt that the leader of the revolution sent a message of condolence to the Soviet leadership and the friendly Soviet people at the death of secretary-general of the Communist Party and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Konstantin Chernenko.

AFP: Former Minister To Be Executed 7 April

NC121141 Paris AFP in English 1129 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, March 12 (AFP) — Former Libyan Defense Minister Major Adam Huez, who has been under sentence of death since 1970, is to be executed on April 7, an exiled opposition leader said here today.

Bashir al-Rabti, head of the Libyan Liberation Movement, quoting family sources in Libya, said relatives of Major Huez and four other "nationalist militants" had been ordered to attend the executions, which will be on the tenth anniversary of an official purge of the universities. Mr Huez was defense minister in the first government of Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, who came to power in a 1969 coup.

Mr al-Rabti named the other four as Mansur al-Barki, a dentistry professor from Benghazi; Khalid al-Turjuman; Major Fathi al-Sha'ari and Yunis al-'Asawi, a cousin of 'Umar al-Muhamayshi, a former member of the Revolutionary Council who is under house arrest.

Mr al-Rabti called on international public opinion and humanitarian organizations to intervene to prevent the executions.

Reportage on Visit of SFRY Defense Minister**Arrives 11 Mar**

LD111722 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Admiral Branko Mamula, SFRY Federal secretary of defense arrived in Tripoli this morning for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, welcomed the Yugoslav Federal secretary for defense and the delegation accompany him at Tripoli International Airport.

Admiral Mamula made a statement to JANA's representative in which he said: This visit comes within the framework of the existing cooperation between the two friendly countries. Admiral Mamula added that during his visit aspects of joint cooperation between the two friendly countries and the establishing of new cooperation programs between Libya and Yugoslavia will be discussed. He said relations between the two friendly countries are excellent and extremely cordial and have been since their

foundations were laid by Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi and the late President Josip Tito. The SFRY Federal secretary for defense stressed that it is our duty to work to develop these relations and to strengthen cooperation in all spheres so that we may have a firm foundation and strong means to defend our freedom.

Talks With Army Chief

LD121101 Tripoli JANA in English 0805 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Jumada Thani, 12 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Yesterday morning a session of talks was held between Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan Armed Forces Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir and the national defense federal secretary in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Admiral Branko Mamula.

The meeting is part of the mutual co-operation between the two countries. The session was attended by members from the two sides.

MAURITANIA

Information Minister Departs for Chernenko Funeral

LD112144 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Ahmed Ould Ghanahallah, minister of information and telecommunications, left Nouakchott this afternoon for Moscow to represent the Mauritanian Government at the funeral of the late Soviet President Chernenko, who died in Moscow yesterday.

MOROCCO

King Hassan Holds Press Conference

LD091348 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Marrakech, 9 Mar (MAP) — King Hassan II last night held a press conference at the Royal Palace at Marrakech which was attended by a large number of journalists representing world press, radio, magazines and television networks.

The king spoke of a number of national, regional, continental and international matters, particularly the question of the Sahara in light of Morocco's withdrawal from the OAU, the contacts among the Arab Maghreb countries, Morocco's application to join the EEC and the Arab-African Union as well as the Middle East.

The conference was attended by several members of the Moroccan Government, the king's advisers, Moroccan Parliament Speaker Ahmad Osman, and military and civilian personalities.

The following are the questions put to his majesty in Arabic and his majesty's answers to them. MAP will disseminate the full text of the proceedings of the press conference at a later date.

Question from the Saudi paper *UKAZ*: Your Majesty. All talk about a possible Moroccan-Algerian summit being held as a result of constant contacts between the two countries seem to have come to a halt suddenly. How far has Saudi and Gulf mediation succeeded in bringing the views of the two countries — Morocco and Algeria — together? Is it that Algeria has stipulated the participation of the so-called Polisario Government in the summit meeting? What in Your Majesty's opinion be the formula for the success of such a meeting?

King Hassan II's reply: True, there was and still is the possibility of holding a Moroccan-Algerian summit conference. This is because, in fact, we have not terminated the dialogue, nor have we suspended it. We said the time has come for contemplation and thinking. Dialogue is essential except in regard to sacred matters on which there can be no dialogue. However, it is necessary to have dialogue for the affirmation of these sacred matters and for affirmation of respect for them. We are, therefore, in recess as happens in football games, for example, when each team takes a rest and considers things.

May God reward King Fahd for, as usual, whenever and wherever an Arab conflict occurs, he always tries to bring the two sides to the dispute together. May God reward him for his efforts. But I do not think that we can say that there was a mediation in the well-known political and legal terms. So far, there have been appeals to Morocco and Algeria to seriously seek common grounds for solving problems between them. That is all.

Question from the Lebanese newspaper *AL-NAHAR*: Your Majesty. We have noted that in your last speech you did not make any mention at all of the Middle East. Does that signify any particular stance?

King Hassan II's reply: Not at all. Political speeches are like newspaper articles. They try to avoid superfluous matters. Since there was nothing new following the Fes resolutions and since the Fes resolutions are still valid and considered as the only plan agreed upon by all Arabs who consider themselves bound by them, we felt we would be only repeating ourselves if we were to speak of a matter which is as clear as broad daylight. This is the reason that prompted us to omit any reference to this point.

Question by the Saudi paper *AL-YAMAMAH*. Your Majesty. Why have you not submitted the Sahara question to the Arab League even though all its parties are Arabs and league members and even though the OAU hedged for 2 years and then announced its inability to settle the dispute?

His majesty's reply: I believe that it is not necessary to prove the fait accompli, since in 1974 at the Rabat summit the Algerian president stated his views on the Sahara question. He said that Algeria has no designs in the Sahara and has no business in the Sahara. Good. After that Mauritania relinquished part of the Sahara. International law includes part of private law. Morocco has the right of priority and precedence to inheritance before anyone else. Mauritania departed and Morocco entered, because Morocco is the most logical country after Mauritania to have sovereignty over the part which was once part of Mauritania. Regarding the Arab League, the problem is over, and causes for disputes are plentiful in the Arab League. Morocco respectfully

and kindly, as far as the league is concerned, did not want to make matters worse, hence our striving modestly to bring closer together the Arab viewpoints on important and basic problems. We preferred not to involve the Arab League as it would waste its strength and potentials on a question that we consider as having less importance than the Palestinian question. As far as the Arab League is concerned this matter is closed.

Question by Libyan Jamahiriya Television: Your Majesty. You began your interview last Monday with NBC by expressing the U.S. Government's reservations to and fears of the Arab-African Union. Do you consider this a kind of intervention in the affairs of others? Secondly, a little while ago you stated that the developments of the Middle East question stopped at the Fes summit resolution. How do you view the King Husayn-Arafat agreement?

His majesty's reply: First, when I addressed the NBC correspondent I was addressing a correspondent of a free press; my address was not directed at an American official, since it was a televised interview as given by anyone to a journalist. Regarding the agreement between His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir Arafat, it is an agreement that could be good as it could be useless, because if we want it to be a good agreement it must first of all be backed by the PLO in all its respects. Secondly, it must not be obstructed by Syria, because Syria is a necessary and essential route to solving the Middle East problem. Thirdly, it must be blessed and encouraged unanimously by the Arab countries within the framework of the resolutions to which they are committed. This is my objective analysis to your question.

Question by the Saudi paper *AL-RIYAD*: Your Majesty. Your role is prominent and clear in any peace initiative in the Middle East. During your forthcoming visit to the United States is there a specific concept that could help in softening the American posture toward the crisis to get Israel to accept negotiations under the umbrella of an international peace conference?

His majesty's reply: Unfortunately, I have no plans to visit the United States and there has been no decision on such a step.

Second, it so appears that the United States does not agree to an international conference. I personally think that among the points which we ought to study and consider at the forthcoming summit conference are the negative and positive points of convening or not convening an international conference. The Arab countries have not made a decision in this subject, and this should be discussed at the forthcoming conference. I cannot give you any positive or negative indication because I do not have all the necessary facts.

Question by *AL-MUSTAQBAL* magazine of Paris: Your Majesty. Permit me to move to another question, namely that of Ceuta and Melilla. In your interview with Spanish television, you spoke of the considerations which govern the USSR's position on the question of the control of the Straits of Gibraltar by any single country. Does this indicate Soviet direct or indirect support for Morocco's right to retrieve Ceuta and Melilla or is it only an indication of a new type of development in the relations between Morocco and the USSR?

King Hassan II's reply: My reply to Spanish television in this regard was a clear and logical one. As you know, the Soviet fleet has three outlets: the eastern outlet through Siberia, the northern outlet through the North Sea and the Gibraltar outlet to the Atlantic Ocean. It is illogical for one to conceive that the USSR would leave the Mediterranean to the 6th Fleet alone due to the fact that Spain is a NATO member. Should the forthcoming voting confirm Spain's membership in NATO, the southern flank of the Soviet fleet will lose its freedom of movement. The southern flank will then have no freedom and become a prisoner, because Spain, which is a NATO member, will have the control of the Straits. My statement was not inspired by the Soviets or due to any particular dealings between the USSR and Morocco but only due to an analysis by a mind which can see the map and can think.

Question by the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA*: Your Majesty. It has been reported that, during the recent negotiations, Algeria proposed some sort of autonomous rule for the Sahara under which the Saharan people would have allegiance to the Moroccan throne but would enjoy independence in economic, administrative and foreign representation. Can you conceive some sort of autonomous rule for the Sahara within the framework of the Moroccan territorial unity?

King Hassan II's reply: It seems you know more than I do about what Algeria has proposed. Suppose that what Algeria proposed was actually what you have said. We cannot speak of any organizational framework in regard to the Sahara until we know the fate of its sovereignty. If in the referendum for self-determination the Saharan people say "yes" to their Moroccan affiliation, then it becomes a matter of absolute sovereignty for Rabat to deal with the Saharans as Moroccans and deal with them in a proper manner in accordance with its internal sovereignty. But if the Sahara, or rather the Saharan people, reject this, and I do not think that they will, then there is no basis for any discussion concerning a particular regime for the Saharan provinces. For this reason it seems that the referendum on self-determination is a basic condition — an imperative and sound condition for any future discussion of any matters.

A question by *AL-SIYASAH* of Kuwait: Your Majesty. Diplomatic sources have spoken about an attempted coup in Mauritania against President Ould Taya led by Algerian officers and soldiers and that the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces confronted this attempt while passing through Moroccan Sahara and captured all those who took part in it and they are still in detention. Will the Royal Armed Forces attack the positions from which the SAM missiles were fired bringing down two Moroccan aircraft and one German civilian aircraft, in the event they are exposed to any future attack?

His majesty's reply: Regarding the first question, I have no knowledge of an attempted coup in Mauritania. Once and for all, I have no knowledge, and this is the first time I have heard of it. Be certain that it would be the priority of the Moroccan soldiers to confront and detain the participants in the coup. However, this report is totally false, fabricated with no basis in truth. Regarding the pursuit, this specifically concerns the Supreme Command of the Royal Armed Forces, and in my opinion it is not fitting nor satisfactory to publicly answer your question.

SUDAN

Numayri Sends Condolences on Chernenko's Death

EA111857 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] The president of the Republic, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, has sent the following cable of condolences to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on the occasion of the death of President Konstantin Chernenko, the Soviet head of state: We have received with all sadness the news of the death of President Konstantin Chernenko, the CPSU general secretary and chairman of the Supreme Soviet. Please accept and convey to his family and the Soviet people our condolences and sincere sharing of sadness.

President Numayri Praises Armed Forces' Stand

JN111112 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, Jumada Thani 19, Mar 11 (SUNA) — President Ja'far Numayri has affirmed his unshakable belief in the fidelity of the People's Armed Forces, stressed he never doubted their loyalty for a moment.

In response to a cable of support from the People's Armed Forces Deputy Commander in Chief General 'Abd al-Rahman Sawar al-Dahab, Numayri expressed his gratitude and commended the Armed Forces' stances wishing it every success in the realization of the cherished goals.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Cables Supreme Soviet on Chernenko's Death

LD120901 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT
12 Mar 85

[Text] Following the death of Soviet President Chernenko, President Habib Bourguiba sent a cable of condolences yesterday to the Supreme Soviet expressing his profound regret for the death of the general secretary of the CPSU. He expressed in his own name and in the name of the Tunisian Government and people the sincerest condolences.

His excellency the president said: The departure of President Chernenko represents a great loss not only to the Soviet people, but also to the international community. I praise this great man and his personal contribution toward the course of detente in international relations, which history will record for him. I also praise his work toward the continuous development of the cordial relations between our countries.

President Habib Bourguiba charged his personal representative Monji Kooli, with the task of representing Tunisia at the funeral ceremony of the late Soviet leader.

WESTERN SAHARA

Independent Referendum on Sahara Urged

LD092027 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT
9 Mar 85

[Text] The news conference by King Hassan II yesterday in Marrakesh has led to a clarification being given by the Saharan Information Ministry. Morocco, one reads in this Saharan communique, rejects the peace plan on the Western Sahara, as decided on by the OAU and unanimously confirmed by the United Nations. The only obstacle which continues to block the holding of the referendum on self-determination is the occupation of part of the Western Sahara and the Moroccan refusal to subscribe to the peace plan.

In his statements, the Saharan communique adds, the king of Morocco speaks of his willingness to organize the referendum, but it is not for Morocco to prepare or to organize the referendum on the self-determination of the Saharan people and as long as Hassan II insists on speaking in these terms and continues quite simply to oppose the referendum on self determination. [as heard]

In other words, the referendum on self-determination as decided upon by the OAU and the United Nations can only be a referendum prepared, organized, and supervised by the United Nations and the OAU, which will completely take charge of Western Sahara. The wording [of the resolutions] is clear and stipulates that the referendum should be carried out free of any administrative or military constraint. The only effort which the international community asks of Hassan II is that he withdraw his troops and his administration from Western Sahara to allow an international peace-keeping force to be installed along with a neutral and impartial administration which alone will be empowered to prepare, organize, and supervise the referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara, the Saharan communique concludes. This is a statement by the Government of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

Algiers Reports Moroccan Casualties in March

LD101939 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT
10 Mar 85

[Text] The Saharan people wage a ceaseless fight on the diplomatic and military level in order to realize the right to self-determination: attacks by the Saharan Liberation Army against Moroccan positions have led to 21 soldiers being killed and 34 injured since the beginning of March. Heavy shelling was carried out against the Moroccan troops entrenched behind their famous fortifications which are becoming ever more vulnerable.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Sends Condolences on Chernenko's Death

EA112004 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1800 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, died last night of ill health at the age of 74.

Comrade Haile Mariam Mengistu, secretary general of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee, Provisional Military Administrative Council chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, today sent a message of condolences on the death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko to the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the country's Council of Ministers, and all the people of the USSR. In it he said that the grief he felt on the death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, was deep. He added that during his life, Comrade Chernenko had constantly struggled for the construction of a communist society, international peace, and the welfare and development of mankind.

Our comrade revolutionary leader said in his message that the great achievements made by Comrade Chernenko during his life had earned him great respect and admiration from the world's peace-loving and progressive societies.

Our comrade revolutionary leader said in particular that as a sincere friend of revolutionary Ethiopia, Comrade Chernenko had been extending unreserved support towards alleviating our country's problems.

On behalf of the WPE Central Committee, the people and Government of Ethiopia, and on his own behalf, Comrade Mengistu expressed his deep grief to the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the Council of Ministers, the Soviet people, and the family of the deceased.

Leaves For Funeral

EA121052 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
0900 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, left for Moscow this morning to attend Comrade Konstantin Chernenko's funeral.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam was seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderess, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. WPE Central Committee Politburo members and alternate members, WPE Central Committee members, ministers, and Comrade Konstantin Fomichenko, Soviet ambassador to revolutionary Ethiopia, were also present.

Earlier in the morning, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam signed the condolences book at the Soviet Embassy expressing his deep sorrow at the death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko. Present during the occasion when Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam signed the book of condolences were Comrade Fikre-Selassie Wogderess, WPE Central Committee Politburo member and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and other Politburo members.

Signing the book of condolences, our comrade revolutionary leader stated that Comrade Chernenko was a great communist who spent all his life working for the strengthening of the world communist movement and building of socialism and was a great friend of the Ethiopian people and revolution. He expressed his deep felt sorrow on behalf of the people of Ethiopia, the party and government, and on his own behalf.

On arrival at the Soviet Embassy, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam was welcomed by Comrades Tibebe Bekele, deputy foreign minister, and Konstantin Fomichenko, Soviet ambassador to revolutionary Ethiopia.

Foreign Minister at UN Meeting on African Famine

For a Hong Kong AFP report on Foreign Affairs Minister Goshu Wolde's participation at the UN meeting on African famine in Geneva, including his meeting with U.S. Vice President George Bush, see the International Affairs section of the 12 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

Bulgaria's Kubadinski Departs for Sofia

EA102138 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1700 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Pencho Kubadinski, BCP Central Committee Politburo member, chairman of the Bulgarian Fatherland Front, and chairman of the Bulgarian-Ethiopian Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation and Trade Joint Commission returned to Sofia today.

During his stay in Ethiopia, Comrade Kubadinski attended the sixth meeting of the joint commission, signed joint agreements, and visited various development projects.

Comrade Kubadinski was seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Adis Tedla, WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee Politburo member and deputy chairman of the National Central Planning Committee, and the ambassadors of the two countries.

TPLF Captures 2 Towns in 4-6 March Fighting

EA101644 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Amharic 0500 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] The gallant TPLF [Tigre People's Liberation Front] fighters destroyed one battalion and a company based at Chifra in Welo Region and took control of the town. During this fighting, which took place on 6 March 1985, the TPLF fighters

killed and wounded 50 Dergue soldiers and [words indistinct] 241 other soldiers. In addition, they have captured 343 guns of various kinds, 2 communication sets, many [word indistinct], and burned one store full of [word indistinct].

The gallant TPLF fighters on 4 March 1985 destroyed one battalion of the Dergue Army which had established a base at a place called (Alali Tulula) in Welo Region (northern Ethiopia) and took control of the place. In this fighting, which lasted for 1 and 1/2 hours, the TPLF fighters killed 120 Dergue soldiers and captured 92. They also captured 112 light guns, 2 Brens, 2 generators, other equipment, and burned out 1 N3 [Fiat] heavy commercial truck and a bomb store.

KENYA

Moi Sends Condolences on Chernenko's Death

EA111932 Nairobi KNA in English 1530 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Nairobi, March 11 — H.E. President Hon Daniel T. arap Moi today sent a message of condolences to H.E. Mr Vasilii V. Kuznetsov, first deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, following the death of the president of the USSR, the late Mr Konstantin Chernenko. The president's message said:

The government and the people of Kenya join me in extending to the party, the government and the people of the USSR my heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of the general secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, H.E. the late Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko.

The death of the President Chernenko at this time when the world is beset by many international crises is indeed an unfortunate event. It is my sincere hope that the government and the people of the USSR will courageously overcome this great loss.

In this moment of grief and sorrow, I wish the government and people of the USSR peace and a prosperous future.

Mwangale Leaves Geneva To Attend Chernenko Funeral

EA121420 Nairobi KNA in English 1040 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Nairobi, 12 March — Kenya's Foreign Minister Mr E.W. Mwangale left Geneva today for Moscow where he will represent the Kenya Government at the funeral of the Soviet president the late Konstantin Chernenko tomorrow. Also in the Kenya delegation are the Kenya ambassador in Moscow Mr M. Kisaka and Mr J.D. Odede, the head of the European Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nairobi.

SEYCHELLES

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Bulgaria

AB081512 Paris AFP in French 1142 GMT 8 Mar 985

[Text] Victoria, 8 Mar (AFP) — An agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation was signed in Victoria Thursday by James Michel, the Seychelles minister of education and information, and Serafim Serafimov, the Bulgarian ambassador to the Seychelles. Under the 2-year agreement, scholarships will be granted to Seychelles students and visits as well as cultural exchanges will be organized between the two countries.

Mr Serafimov presented his letters of credence to President France Albert Rene last Monday as the first Bulgarian ambassador accredited to Seychelles.

SOMALIA

Radio Halkan: Defections From Army Follow Mutinies

EA092031 (Clandestine) Radio Halkan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Reports from headquarters of the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces in Galdogob have said that during the past 5 months over 2,500 soldiers defected to the DFSS from the 54th Division of the loyalist troops of Siad Barre regime. Confirmed reports from the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS say that the defections from the 54th Division of the loyalist troops of the Mogadishu clique followed several widespread mutinies within the division and also other divisions of the Somali Armed Forces.

The mutiny of the 54th Division was a result of their being forced to fight their brothers who are waging a just war and armed struggle to free the country and people from the grip of the dictatorial regime of Mohamed Siad Barre.

Radio Halkan on Successful 7 Mar DFSS Attack

LD082027 (Clandestine) Radio Halkan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] The intrepid fighters of the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces have attacked Siad Barre loyalist troops, killing 28 and wounding 33 of them.

In the 7 March surprise attack, on (Dabat) military base in the Cabuud Waaq District, Ghel Ghel Gudut Region, central Somalia, the forces loyal to the Mogadishu clique suffered heavy casualties and large losses in materiel.

The gallant DFSS fighters also destroyed two military vehicles and burned the base of the 35th Battalion and the police station in (Dabat) village. One DFSS fighter was wounded during the attack.

TANZANIA

SDAR Prime Minister Arrives With Message for Nyerere

EA092036 *Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili*
1700 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] SDAR Prime Minister Mahfoud Ali Beiba arrived in Dar es Salaam today with a special message for OAU Chairman Mwalimu Nyerere from the Republic's president, Mohamed Abdelaziz. Ndugu Beiba was met at Dar es Salaam International Airport by Minister of Industries and Trade Ndugu Basil Mramba. The contents of the message were not immediately known.

The Western Saharan liberation movement, Polisario, is waging an armed struggle against Morocco, which has been ruling the SDAR for 10 years.

Briefs

Cooperation Agreement With Ireland — Dar es Salaam — Tanzania and Ireland have signed a 5-year cooperation agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, the Government of Ireland has pledged to give economic and technological assistance to Tanzania. The treaty was signed in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The Government of Ireland will also provide Tanzania with experts in various fields of development to promote development projects in the country. [Summary] [*Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili* 0400 GMT 8 Mar 85 EA]

PRC Envoy Departs — Dar es Salaam — Tanzania and its Frontline allies will continue to give all diplomatic, moral, and material support to the oppressed people of southern Africa. The pledge was made today by Foreign Minister Benjamin Mkapa during a farewell dinner in honor of the outgoing Chinese ambassador to Tanzania, He Gongkai. Mkapa commended Beijing for its assistance to Tanzania since the signing of the treaty of cooperation between the two countries 20 years ago. [Summary] [*Dar es Salaam External Service in English* 1800 GMT 7 Mar 85 EA]

Cholera Outbreak in Southeast — Lindi — Cholera has broken out again in Lindi Region, where 34 people have been hospitalized during the past few days. The regional chief medical officer, Samuel Mgeni, has explained that the renewed outbreak is a result of many of the town's residents ignoring prophylactic measures after seeing the situation improving. More than 50 people have died of cholera since the disease broke out in the region on 12 December 1984. A total of 280 people with cholera were hospitalized within the 3-month period ending February 1985. [Summary] [*Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili* 1700 GMT 8 Mar 85 EA]

UGANDA

Uganda People's Congress 25th Anniversary Conference**Obote Addresses Rally**

EA100918 *Kampala Domestic Service in English* 1016 GMT
9 Mar 85

[Speech by President Milton Obote to the Uganda People's Congress silver jubilee rally at Lugogo Stadium in Kampala — live]

[Excerpts] Uganda People's Congress, UPC: Welcome to the congress. On behalf of the national officials and the Executive Committee, I want to thank all of you who came to march in the streets of Kampala and are now gathered here at Lugogo Stadium.

We say that we have achieved the objectives of our [word indistinct] Party. Other thing [words indistinct]. The objective was unity of the people of Uganda, independence of Uganda. Is there any (?part) today anywhere in Uganda where on (?persons) wants to be independent by (?himself)? [passage indistinct]

The Democratic Party [DP] will not bring a platform of separate independence. No other party is going to come up to bring a platform of separate independence. Uganda is now one and it is going to continue to be one. Members of the (?party), this is not a [word indistinct] time.

I was requested to greet the marchers. I have greeted them. [passage indistinct] There are very many things yet to be done. You have come from different corners of the country. Go back to your areas as one person. Go back with one message; go back to destroy, to destroy. Go: destroy them. (?You see), the constitution of the party says that anybody, anybody who is a Ugandan of the (?apparent) age of 18 years and who believes in the policies of the party should be recruited in the party.

Go to your areas and recruit them, and that is the way to destroy other parties. You are under command. We are all under command to recruit Paul Semogerere [DP leader] and Mayanja Nkangi [Conservative Party leader] to UPC. [applause] Don't (?fear): I don't allow them to tell you that they cannot join UPC. They will join UPC because there will be no alternative. When we recruit hundreds and thousands of people into UPC and elections come in a city (?southeast) and Semogerere gets less than 12 persons to nominate him as a parliamentary candidate, what will he do? He will come to us to get to be nominated. That is the charge I give you.

I am going to work hard with the vice president, Paulo Muwanga, with the prime minister, Otema, with other officials of the party. We are going to start recruiting the executive members of the DP into UPC. I say this with all seriousness because I cannot see any message, I cannot see any message that the DP can give to the people of Uganda. I cannot.

Last year -- I think it was in January or February -- they had their delegates conference here at Lugogo. Here they met, they passed resolutions, and we know these relations. Recently Semogerere was saying: the Government of Uganda, the UPC government should hold talks with the bandits in Luwero. Now, a year ago, a year ago the DP (?met), did not pass other solution. [sentence as heard] The topmost organ of the DP met, did not pass a resolution to request government to hold talks with the bandits. Now, who gave Semogerere this authority, then? And I tell you DP members in Buganda, in Busoga, in Bugisu, in [name indistinct], everywhere: There is a leader who decides this from his own head. He doesn't consult you. You don't know where he is taking you. The man is an elected MP. He wants us to go to the bush, to the bush to negotiate; to negotiate what? He did not consult his delegates conference, but he [words indistinct] government must, government must negotiate.

Then another crank in the DP -- I don't know his name -- said that UPC, if UPC would rig election in '85 they will go to the bush. Where in the bush? They have been in the bush all these years. Who has been in the bush? The DP, not us, not us. If you say we have got [word indistinct] (?how many) seats in Lengo, seven, in Acholi, seven, in Tororo, seven. If you say that we were having trouble in those areas, I would ask the UPC fellows: What are you doing? Get out of the bush. But the DP got all the seats in Luwero. Thousands upon thousands of votes. So if there are dissidents in Luwero, (?yet) they are DP. They are DP. They cannot by definition be UPC. So what is this grand talk about they are going to the bush? He has been in the bush all these years, and we are trying to flush them out now, and that is why they are (?talking) to negotiate, negotiate, negotiate: because now they know they are losing. They know they are losing.

I ask you to go and recruit people. Go and recruit. No discrimination. Don't talk in terms of tribes; don't talk in terms of religion. Accept everybody of every religion. Accept everybody of any tribe. That is the strength of this party.

Obote Speech at Conference

EA101301 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1128 GMT
9 Mar 85

[Address by President Milton Obote to Uganda People's Congress delegates conference on the occasion of silver jubilee anniversary of the founding of the party at Kampala International Conference Center -- live]

[Excerpts] Delegates, we meet this time to celebrate the silver jubilee of this great party, the Uganda People's Congress [UPC]. We also meet to celebrate the founding of the first political movement in Uganda -- the father of the UPC, known then as Uganda National Congress. The theme of the celebrations is the Congress in the service of the people since 1952.

The delegates, however, are here for celebrations. There will be another meeting of the delegates sometime this year, not for celebrations but for real party business. For today, I welcome you all and I'm happy to see you still fit. [applause]

Delegates, we are celebrating success. We are celebrating success. [applause] That is the message you take back to your branches, to your constituencies, and to your districts. Since we have been on the political scene, this party has recorded tremendous success. We must celebrate those successes. We must (?think) of those successes in order that we should plan for the future. We begin with the fact that within UPC there is no discrimination. [applause]

All Ugandans are welcome to join the UPC. [applause] persons who profess a religion are welcome, persons who have no religion are welcome, and persons of various tribes are welcome. This is a fundamental provision in our Constitution.

It is only a citizen of Uganda of the apparent age of 18 years and who believes in the party constitution and policy who is allowed to join the UPC. Briefly, this is also the provision of the Uganda Constitution. We stipulate that only citizens of Uganda can vote or can stand as candidates for parliamentary elections.

We are a Ugandan party as much as we are Africans. We do not just accept any African who comes into Uganda and enroll him. [laughter] We are a Ugandan party, Uganda people's national congress, Uganda people's congress, Ugandan, not any other person. [applause] I make this point because you will recall that during the last elections in 1980 the present main opposition party and another party now... [Obote pauses] in [word indistinct] to know after an African has been in Uganda for 5 years, for 10 years, let him vote. No, we have no votes outside Uganda. We cannot allow noncitizens to have a vote here. [applause]

We are the maker of modern Uganda. We, this party, is the maker of modern Uganda. Before 1952 there wasn't a party, a political party in Uganda. Efforts against colonialism were uncoordinated, but it was the Congress people who came forward and brought together the people of Uganda to demand for independence. Because of this Congress, you now have, for the first [time] since (?52), persons known as politicians; and you, delegates, you are politicians. [applause]

When the Congress brought this type of persons on the political scene of Uganda, it was attacked. Politicians -- they want independence? Do they make needles and razor blades? What do they do? Are they chiefs? Are they what? [sentence as heard] But all over the world, let us not be deceived, all over world countries are ruled by politicians. [applause] It was the Congress for the first that came up to tell the people of Uganda that this country must be ruled not by colonial officers, not by chiefs, not by handpicked people, but by politicians elected by the people of Uganda. [applause]

Later other parties came into being. They also wanted to bring their politicians, but first they didn't want independence immediately. We accepted their coming into being. We still do accept their coming into being. But I remind you of the provision of your constitution, the constitution of the UPC.

I have told you this now: Any person of the apparent age of 18 years or over who believes in the party policies and constitution should be recruited -- any person. It follows, therefore, that we are all under the command of the party constitution to recruit

even Paul Semogerere [leader of opposition Democratic Party] into UPC. [prolonged laughter] All that he needs to do is to believe in the UPC constitution and in the policies of the UPC, he will be welcomed here, immediately. [laughter] If he still wants to remain outside, your message, which you take from these celebrations to the people in your locality, is to recruit everybody else and leave him alone. [laughter]

It is also this party that brought together the people of Uganda as persons of one country, unity of Uganda. Nationally, it was to Uganda by the Congress, not other parties. [sentence as heard]

For us to have brought nationalism in Uganda and to all other parties to begin to accept is a matter for celebration. [applause] This, however, is an election year, 1985. Watch out, you nationalists. Watch out for these characters and these persons who are always flying abroad. Those people are nationalists there in their own countries. Why do they want and tell our secrets in other capitals abroad? Watch out for leaders of other parties who are always, you hear them, he is having breakfast somewhere, is having lunch somewhere, he is having dinner somewhere — watch out for those people. They are not nationalists. They are not nationalists. They are not proud of being Ugandans. We are proud of being Ugandans. [applause]

Delegates, from what I have said, you can gauge the type of battles the Congress has fought. On the first national demand, stated by the Congress in 1952 — that is, self-government now — the Congress fought alone on that demand for 8 years. It was towards the end of 1959, for 8 years, when the leadership of the Democratic Party [DP], the present main opposition party, came forward to say: Self-government now was not possible, but possibly in 10 years' time. So we were alone, alone; the Congress was alone on this first nationalistic demand; self-government now for eight years. We need to celebrate that success. [applause]

Then you come, today you hear a lot about democracy, you hear a lot about democracy being broken by our opponents [as heard] here in Uganda. You hear a lot about human rights being spoken about by our opponents again here in Uganda. Democracy was taken away at gunpoint in 1971; a coup took place here in 1971. A new regime came into being, the regime of the gun, the regime of murder and terror, a fascist regime, a killer regime was here from 1971 until April 1979.

Which party was the first to say that this regime must go? Again it was the Congress. [applause] [passage indistinct] While the Congress was organizing itself to fight that regime, the other parties and their leaders were hobnobbing with that regime.

We have to celebrate this success. [applause] We shouldn't be shy. We should tell the people of Uganda that we were the first to demand independence and all these other persons were against it. We were the first to fight the regime of murder and terror. All these other persons were against it. Then what happened? Like with independence, when the thing was about ready, they came in forward quickly to sit there. It is a terrible coincidence. It is a terrible coincidence.

In 1961, independence was just here. The DP comes into government. And they keep on saying that they were in the government.

They are not ashamed. They are not ashamed, because if it was us we would have refused to be in that government. There were two serious characteristics of that government which a nationalist party would not have agreed to serve in it [as heard]. One, in one province, the Province of Buganda, the majority of the people did not vote. They boycotted that election and did it successfully. A tiny section of the people voted. And they talk about democracy. Democracy of the minority; that is what they understand. Democracy of the minority, is that democracy?

Now, every time we speak to our friends in the Western world, they refuse to see this problem. Totally, they don't want to see it. We don't understand why. This thing has happened in Uganda.

The DP has never been a majority anywhere in Uganda. [applause] and it will never be. [laughter] You go to government with 3 percent of the electorate, and you actually speak that you are representing the people? I'm sure if it was UPC, the entire world, particularly some of those people who blame us in the Western world, would say: But it was a minority thing, we can't accept that. But why this favoritism towards the DP? I ask them: Why? Why do you favor the DP if you want democracy in Uganda? I put that question openly.

Delegates, let me cite another example. Since the elections in 1980 and in accordance with the resolution and the policy adopted by the delegates conference in November 1980, your government has put in position a number of policy measures. On security, on the economy, on the infrastructure, on the social services. For 4 years, the Uganda parliament has been meeting. Every time we could not hear support on these policies from the DP. And we have asked them consistently in 4 years: Give us the alternatives. And they have not given us. They have not given us with the newspapers; with their newspapers not a single definitive proposition has been proposed by the DP for 4 years, for 4 years for the recovery of the economy. All that has been achieved has been achieved by UPC alone, alone. That's 4 years — not eight; four. It means, it means, you have got a very easy task. You have got a very easy task another 4 years because the DP are still thinking. They need 8 years. [laughter] They need normally 8 years to awaken up. [laughter]

Delegates: We gather, as you all now know, to celebrate the anniversary of the UPC. And as we do so, our minds must inevitably drift back to that historic day on 9 March 1960. As a party with a sense of history, we cannot but also recall the role played by the forerunner of our party, the Uganda National Front and its founders and leaders. We salute them today and pay tribute to their political foresight. [applause] (It has been a pleasure) to invite those founding fathers who are still alive to be with us during these celebrations. [applause]

The founding fathers were kind enough to elect me as the first president of the UPC. [applause] Subsequently, the delegates have elected and have [words indistinct] more confidence in me in a number of occasions. For all this I'm truly grateful to this and previous delegates conferences. [applause] It has been my great privilege to have led your party from its very inception and to see it grow from a mere skeleton to the major party of this country with millions of members and supporters. [applause] I have been fortunate that from time to time I worked with a

nationalist National Council, a dedicated Central Executive Committee. I'm very humble as I stand before you to say that I enjoyed working with them. [applause] All this, however, could not have been achieved without the loyalty, great personal sacrifice, and dedication of the leaders and the many thousands of party cadres at all levels who have worked tirelessly and under difficult and at times dangerous circumstances to establish and keep alive the party spirit in all parts of the country.

I thank all executive members — the branch executive, the constituency executive, and the district executive — I thank you all for supporting me and supporting the party.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay particular tribute to those who are no longer alive, especially who actually shed their blood in the cause of our party. Since 1971 we have lost very many leaders and very many [word indistinct]. We have always correctly analyzed and understood the causes of this loss. We do not shout about it. We do not shout about these losses. They are painful, very painful. The one aspect which is extremely painful is for our opponents to kill our leaders, kill our members, and then write in their own newspapers, in their propaganda abroad: that is the Congress killing Congress. It is very painful, exceedingly painful.

But the people of Uganda know what has been happening. Why should Congress in Luwero kill Congress in Luwero, and not Congress in Apac or Moyo or Mbarara, kill another Congress there? Why? Why should Congress in Kampala kill Congress in Kampala, and Congress in Tororo does not do it? Why? Once you begin to analyze this, it comes out quite clearly that it is not Congress killing Congress.

It is those who fear Congress who are killing Congress. There are areas from where you have come where to be a member of Congress, it is almost automatic, it is almost automatic, and sometimes, you don't see much danger. But there are other districts where to be a member of Congress is a (?disturbingly) dangerous thing. That Luwero is one example. Indeed, there was a time when the whole of Buganda was like that. Even now there is some little (?trick) that certain persons should not join Congress.

But what have we seen? What have we seen in Luwero, or Mpigi or Mukono or Kampala or Masaka, Mubende or Rakai? What have we seen? When one leader of Congress is killed, on the day of burial we find always another person to take his place. This is the greatest faith I have seen in the party. [applause] And I want all of you delegates who come from districts where there is no such danger to come to the support of our members who are in dangerous areas. And there are not many dangerous areas. One way of doing it is this: Go to your constituencies and branches. Consolidate the party activities, unite the people, isolate the opposition parties: Isolate them completely, so that you know every day what they are doing. Then we have resources of manpower and brains that we can employ in the dangerous areas. [applause] That I say publicly because I see no danger.

The DP is not [in] a position to mobilize extra manpower to send anywhere else. [applause] You have seen them. Recently, when they say they are going to Nebi, they are going to Gulu, they are

going to Junja, they are going to Tororo — you have seen them: They take busloads from the unemployed in Kampala. They put them in buses. They say: We are going to pay you beer, we are going to give you meat, we are going to give you, come and attend our rally. So they drive them all the way to Tororo. [laughter] But they don't know that those workers are our members. So we know what is happening.

Go and consolidate the party in the branches. Consolidate the party in the constituencies. Release that extra manpower, that extra energy, that extra brainpower, and (?later) deploy them. This is not rigging elections. This is action work from house to house. We are going to do it here in Buganda. [applause]

Delegates, I don't have to go through what has already been (?said). We are a party of the peasants: Be with the peasants. We are a party of the youth: Be with the youth.

On this one let me say something. Look at the leadership of the DP. Look at them. The other day they said they were celebrating some kind of anniversary, but it is curious that a party of that kind cannot show youth (?with roots), cannot bring [word indistinct] leaders of the past. When we say we are a party of the youth, we can name people who were youth leaders during (?those) days, people who are leaders, people who are today leaders who were used during the formation, the early days of the UPC. They are leaders today. We always prepare the youth. We always prepare the youth, and we give them opportunities of development.

I challenge the DP: Which youth have they prepared for any kind of leadership? Which youth? Not one. Look at the crowd they sent to parliament, civil servants, businessmen — not a single youth. Who was in DP youth: (?Not even) one. Not one.

So let us tell the youth of Uganda today: This is your party. [applause]

You have the program with you. You have the program with you. See this: The pillar. The tallest pillar here is called youth because it is pointing to the future. The tallest, the middle finger is the tallest. It's youth, pointing to the future, and I ask the youth: This is your party. We have recognized you as the force of the future. Come and prepare with us together the platform for tomorrow. Send this message to the youth. [applause]

Now, you workers: This is a challenge. You are the last finger. This is a big national challenge, because today we have workers. All right, they are not as many as the youth, they are not as many as the peasants, but there is another challenge which the whole country places on workers. We have the worker who lives in Kampala, who lives in Junja, who works in Kasese. But he wants his house in Arua. He wants his shamba [farm] also in Arua. He wants his home in Buganda. He is working in Junja. He wants his home somewhere, so he has got to work. He is a worker in the factory. He is also a peasant at home. Now it has helped Uganda today, but tomorrow it is going to be a real challenge. It will be real challenge, so we must begin to provide, we must begin to provide good conditions for peasants and for workers, for peasants and for workers so that production goes up.

Today if you ask me to be Muluka chief in Kireka and be Gombolola chief somewhere else and be Saza chief and also be president of UPC, I can't do it. I just cannot do it. But today we don't [have] to discuss the situation, but we must begin to think how best we can provide good conditions for the workers and for the peasants in order to increase production. [applause]

Now, I have no authority to label this finger. So we have left it blank for the time being. [applause] But some members of this delegation have written to say that this is obvious, that this is the leadership of the party. And if later, when you are passing your resolutions, you agree, let's stand with this here leadership.

Now, delegates, as you all know, the party's philosophy is epitomized in our current call of peace, unity, and justice. That is the motto of our party. We say (?in our motto) both at home and abroad: peace, unity, and justice.

The party has consistently striven for peace in Uganda and for peace in every homestead. Peace is the product of many (?endeavors). National unity, which is part of our motto, is one of those (?endeavors).

In 1962, when the party led the country to freedom, it was ensnared with a national constitution that encouraged divisiveness and disunity. This is also the product of understanding and respect for our neighbors. Your neighbor in the district, in the villages, is (?equipped) and is (?calm). Peace is forbearance and tolerance.

In its pursuit of peace, our party accepts, as I told you, all our people as one. We do not discriminate against any of our people. We do not. And it is absolutely true, absolutely true for other persons who don't know Uganda, to keep on writing in their reports that the Congress is a party of northerners. This Congress, Uganda People's Congress, be a party of northerners? Where is the evidence? We ask: Is this because the president of the party comes from the north? Why do they want to devalue me? [laughter]

Election after election we have always received the greatest number of votes in the east, but when they write, they write as if there are only two regions in Uganda — north and south, sometimes called Buganda. So, north doesn't agree with Buganda. Buganda doesn't accept northerners. Who told them?

Now, if you go by voting pattern, then actually you are totally confused, because the first-ever general election to be held in Uganda was held in 1961. The people in Buganda, as I've said, boycotted that election. So you could not know the might of Buganda then, 1961. It was not against the north, certainly not against the (?north).

And if I remember correctly, that night I was in UPC headquarters when the returns were coming in. I got a lot of telephone calls from Buganda, various parts of Buganda — Kampala, in particular — because we were winning in the provinces, other provinces. The DP were winning in Buganda. And you know what the telephones (?were)? [They] said: Obote, why don't you defeat them in Katwe, in Makerere, in Mukono? I said: But the polls have been closed. [laughter] That is a true story, and we recorded

it in the Congress registers, and we got a lot of food sent over to headquarters that night — all across this area — a lot of food was sent to us. [They were] asking us to defeat the DP in Buganda when the polls had been closed.

The 1962 election: What story do you get? UPC and Kabaka Yekka — which is a Buganda party — were in alliance. They fought the elections together. Was that Buganda being against UPC? You can't be against somebody when you fight elections together in alliance with him. Where do these people get their history from? Where?

The last election: 1980. Buganda voted for DP. They voted for DP, but in 1962 Buganda voted against DP. So now, does that show anything? Now we are waiting for another election. We are waiting for another election, and, as I told you, we are going to campaign vigorously in Buganda, because the DP cannot lead anybody. [applause]

Delegates, preservation of peace, however, requires vigilance. Peace is a delicate plant. Selfishness, shortsightedness, blind ambition, or treachery can easily endanger that peace. Such an ill will in 1971 brought chaos and disaster to our land, destroyed our institutions, traditions, unity, and prosperity. We have now revived that withered plant. We have, we have. There is peace and I am not ashamed. There is peace in Uganda. There is peace. When we talk about lack of peace or security in Uganda we just (?think) of Luwero triangle and Karamoja region.

Before the celebrations began, I must report I had separate meetings with delegations from Kotido District and from Moroto District. I report that what they told me, particularly what the Moroto delegation told me, was very comforting. They told me of some progress being made in that district. They told me to examine (?parts) [words indistinct], to examine 13 proposals as to how best we can control guns in the hands of the cattle rustlers. Those proposals are being examined by the government.

I met the Kotido delegation. What they told me was not pleasing. The situation there is very bad. One group of people there in Kotido District have so far not responded positively to all the measures that we have put in position and we are reexamining how best to contain the situation in Kotido and how best to contain the situation throughout Karamoja, so that that situation does not move into neighboring Districts of Kitgum, Lira, Soroti, Mbale, and Kapchorwa. That one we are doing.

Luwero, also, we are there. We are there in Luwero. We are working with the people, and those Congress members who come from Luwero will tell you — and I hope they have been telling you, I hope they have been telling you — we are working with the people. The people are working with the government. The people are working with the Army. Schools are opening. Administration is beginning to appear effectively in the field; cultivation is there now. So in Luwero also, the situation is improving. [applause]

Now, West Nile. Members of the National Council must have told you delegates of a statement made in the National Council about refugees. The report I gave about West Nile is very

comforting. [applause] People are coming back. People are coming back in hundreds, that is in Arua and in Moyo. They are being welcomed. There is no harassment. There is no trouble. There is no problem that the government does not want them to come back.

I also report to you that towards the end of last year, a number of exiles — some of them are in Nairobi, some of them are in Sudan — but they come from West Nile. They approached us that they wanted to go to West Nile and see for themselves what has happened to those other persons who had returned.

We allowed them to come. They came. They were in West Nile, that is, but mostly Moyo, for a whole weekend. They ate well [applause] and they went back. This is not a concoction because the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Kampala and in Sudan knows that this is a fact. They came, they went back; we didn't arrest them. And people are coming.

So the statement which was made before the National (?Council) by delegations from West Nile was that there is peace in West Nile, cultivation is going on and there is food, and that people are not thin, that they are fairly hefty, [applause] and they stood up, they stood up. See them. [applause]

So, true, there are still incidents that we must control, but let us differentiate between incidents and a (?trend) of things, a consistent (?trend) of things. (?I said) the government is very happy every time incidents have been reported. We don't want to hide anything, because these incidents tell us exactly what else we should continue doing, that we still have a job to do. We still have a job to do. But Uganda is not Uganda of 1980 or 1979 or 1978.

[Word indistinct] when you hear of one incident, of course it is a matter of concern, but it is not the same thing as reporting that everywhere life is unsafe. It is not the same. There was a time they used to say the Army, the Army, the Army. Which people would talk these things? [sentence as heard] Don't they live in heaven? Don't live on earth? Which country in the world, which country in the world, which after atrocities like we experienced in 1970 [as heard], which again was shattered by war, would have raised a disciplined force in 4 years? Which one? The superpowers? The middle powers? Other Third World countries? Could they have done it in under 4 years? Raise a new army in under 4 years? Raise a new police force in under 4 years?

Instead of telling us: Army, Army, they should have given us assistance to train that army. Assistance to train that police. But it was criticism, all the time, criticism, criticism, criticism. Very well, let them go ahead. Let them go ahead. The only thing we must warn is this: If because of other reasons they want to destabilize this country, they must know none of us is going to leave this country. We are not going to Tanzania or Kenya or Zambia or Sudan or Zaire or Rwanda. We are going to fight here. [prolonged applause] It doesn't matter even if you hear that the whole entire Cabinet has been wiped out. Continue with the fighting. [applause]

In 1971 foreign powers were involved in that coup. They were involved in that coup. And that is why they started by saying Amin was a gentle giant, when Amin was killing our people; while

Amin's violence started on the very first day of the coup, but for a whole year, 1971, they were saying he was a gentle giant, very popular man. Was he?

We know our country. We are Uganda People's Congress. We are Ugandans. We know our country. If anybody wants to bring fujo [disharmony, conflict] here, we are not going to accept it. [prolonged and vigorous applause]

Delegates, let me conclude. We are here for celebrations, not to quarrel. [applause] We are here once more to extend the hand of friendship to all our brothers and sisters who are citizens of Uganda. They are free; if they want to join us, we shall accept them with open arms. [applause] If they don't want to join us, we ask only one thing: Keep the peace.

If, according to the laws of Uganda, [words indistinct]. The people shall decide. In your own case, you know that this is 1985. We shall, during the year, as a party, be engaged in what we call primaries. We shall be engaged in the primaries. I understand that some other parties are already engaged in it, but that is unauthorized. [applause] The Central Executive Committee and the National Council have asked the national officials to frame guidelines, and we are now working on the guidelines. So I warn those who are interested in these primaries that before you see the guidelines, be careful. [laughter] If you do something ahead of the guidelines, you may find yourself automatically disqualified.

And as regards those who are not members of the UPC, I think they should not blame their weakness on us. I report to you delegates that petitions were put to the high court by various parties regarding the 1980 election. The high court has disposed of virtually all of them except to pick a handful, which was unfortunate. But that handful would not show that the elections were rigged. The important matter (?that) I want to bring to you is this: [It was] not the Democratic Party, not UPM [Uganda Patriotic Movement], CP [Conservative Party] that went to court with evidence that the elections were rigged. They did not. But they go abroad. You hear them somewhere in Europe, somewhere in North America, saying the elections were rigged. No evidence; elections were rigged; no evidence.

Now they have started talking about it. Elections are going to be rigged. How? How? I report to you delegates that in 1982 we [word indistinct] in Busoga what was termed the National Movement, the National Movement. Busoga MP's except one rejoined [word indistinct], rejoined UPC. [applause] And each one, each one stated since then up to now that 1980 general elections in Busoga were free and fair. [applause] And the DP used to continue saying that elections in Buganda were free and fair. Now, where then were elections not free and fair? Where? Well, where I can't say, because let them tell us; and if they knew they were not free and fair in those areas why did they not go to court? They didn't. They didn't go. Now they are beginning to fear elections. One of them the other day said I did not consult them before appointing Electoral Commission. I could not. I could not. The Constitution says the President shall appoint. [applause] I don't want to be devalued. [laughter]

Then they talk about human rights [words indistinct]. They talk about [how] we must go and hold talks with the dissidents. The delegates gave the government, gave the party's executive, the delegates met here in Kampala. [sentence as heard] Our delegates met here in Kampala on 6 November 1980. On 6 November 1980 we met here in Kampala and we passed resolution No 3 on security, on security, and anybody who reads that resolution will know that at that time there were already gunmen in Uganda. This is what the resolution in part says: 'Aware that security of life, limb, and property is endangered today in Uganda, conscious that such insecurity is caused by politically disaffected elements both within and without and by heinous economic offenders, and recognizing that the primary duty of any government is to ensure person and property and protection and preservation of the political and economic integrity of the nation, we the delegates at the UPC 1980 annual delegates' conference assembled this sixth day of November 1980 hereby resolve that the UPC government shall (a) eradicate firmly the possession, holding, and harboring of illegal firearms; eradication, the possession, holding, and harboring of illegal firearms.'

How that was on November 1980, before elections. Were we mad? Were we mad to say that we will rig elections, we will be in the government, and these people will go to the bush? Were we mad? Everybody knew that there were politicians already shooting people in Kampala and elsewhere — everywhere in Uganda — and we said we are going to eradicate this (?matter) — the possession, the holding, and harboring. DP were already there. When the Lule administration fell, they took up arms. When the Binaisa administration fell, they took up arms.

Who doesn't know this? Except those who have refused to listen to UPC. They hate UPC so much that every time they manufacture accusations against UPC. Every time. These people did not start after elections [word indistinct]; they started long before elections, long before elections. And we have eradicated them in all these other districts, except, as I have said, Luwero, Kotido, and Moroto. We have eradicated them. (?Tororo), seven constituencies, clean. [prolonged applause] See there, Apac there, Arua there, (Bundobujo), Bushenyi, Gulu, the whole lot of those very clean. Why don't you accept this one [word indistinct], why? In 4 years we have done it, and we are going to do it in these other places: Luwero, Moroto, and Kotido. We are with you.

So how can we go and negotiate with people who first of all accuse us of rigging elections, when they started fighting before elections? Are we all that stupid? Are we all that stupid, to accept concocted evidence? Where did we rig elections? As we have said, if you really think we rigged the elections, come back, come back, come back and stand. Come back and stand. But these fellows fear the people so much that they don't want elections. They want another Moshi conference, where they are given jobs freely by (?threatening) other people. We are not going to do that. We are a party of the people, Uganda people's Congress. Congress of the people, we are not going to surrender peoples' rights. [applause]

Now when my brother Paul Semogerere asked me to go and talk to these people in the bush, what is his authority?

What is his authority? Paul Semogerere had a delegates' conference, a business executive delegates' conference in January of last year. They did not pass a resolution requesting government to hold talks with those people in the bush. Now, who has given him the mandate? His delegates did not give him that mandate. Some high priest somewhere who has no responsibility. My high priest is the voter. When the voter tells me to go and do this, I will try to do it. We will try to do it; all of us together, we will try to do it. Our high priest is the voter. [applause]

So we extend a hand of friendship. The open hand in a symbol of friendship is a symbol of welcome, is a symbol of peace, is a symbol of protection, is a symbol of creativity, of prosperity, and a symbol of movement forward. It has been our symbol since the beginning. It has won us elections and put us in the government seat. Our symbol, the symbol of an open, free, and democratic power. Power, [laughter] a fact that [word indistinct] we don't hide anything, [laughter] a fact that is available to all Ugandans. Just as the hand is available to the whole body of man, is available to serve all Ugandans, just as his one hand, Mr Semogerere's hand, serves the whole of his body. A party as universal as the hand, I give them, and I give you; go with this hand to the people of Uganda, a clean hand. And I ask you all to give the country a hand, ask everybody, give our country a hand to rise up. [applause] Let us extend a hand of peace and of unity, a hand of justice to all the people of Uganda. Let us extend a hand for the stability and progress and prosperity of our motherland Uganda. Let us extend a hand of friendship to all our neighbors. Let us extend a hand of friendship to all countries that understand us, that want to be friends with us.

Delegates, I must now stop, but before I do so, let me with pleasure announce and introduce to you that we had expected sister parties to come and be with us during this celebrations. Some have arrived, some have not; we don't (?know) what has happened. Right now I have the pleasure to announce and to introduce to you a delegation from Kigali, Rwanda. [prolonged applause] I have the pleasure also to announce and introduce to you, a delegation from UNIP [United National Independence Party], from Zambia. [prolonged applause] We hope that during the celebrations others will also come. And we welcome these delegations that have arrived; you have done well to come and join us in our celebrations. Thank you delegates for listening to me. I charge you: Go home, work for the Congress, work for Uganda. This is the time to work for Uganda, and the pearl of Africa shall rise and shine again. [prolonged applause]

Resolution on Tanzanian Ties

EA101622 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT
9 Mar 85

[Text] The Uganda People's Congress [UPC] has decided to enlarge, foster, and preserve fraternal friendship with Tanzania's ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi, CCM, Party in appreciation of enormous sacrifice made by the people of Tanzania, the CCM, the government, and the Tanzanian People's Defense Forces [TPDF] during the liberation of Uganda from the fascist and tyrannical regime.

In one of the resolutions passed at the silver jubilee conference held in Kampala today, the delegates paid tribute to President Nyerere and requested President Obote to invite Mwalimu Nyerere to visit Uganda at a mutually convenient date in the near future.

The delegates said the friendship of the people of Uganda and Tanzania is cemented by blood and self-sacrifice in an everlasting bond of brotherhood. They also thanked God that the people of Uganda hold the people of Tanzania, their great party, the CCM, the TPDF, and their great and illustrious Mwalimu Nyerere in affection.

Namibia, RSA Resolution

EA092051 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] Delegates to the silver jubilee of the Uganda People's Congress, UPC, have condemned dubious maneuvers invented and promoted by agents of imperialism and neocolonialism to deny freedom to the people of Namibia and South Africa. In a resolution passed this afternoon, the conference noted with concern the continued subjugation, exploitation, and denial of basic human rights to the indigenous peoples of Namibia, South Africa, and other struggling peoples in the world. They expressed full support for the liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia and the struggles of oppressed and of subjugated peoples in the world.

Conference Ends

EA092047 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Text] The silver jubilee delegates' conference of the Uganda People's Congress [UPC] has ended in Kampala after passing several resolutions on national and international issues.

The delegates paid tribute to the founding fathers and leaders of the great and glorious congress movement and particularly the illustrious leader of the party, Dr Milton Obote, who has been at the helm of the party since it was founded. They rededicated the party to the UPC creed of one country, one people, democracy, the rule of law, peace, economic and social well-being, and the advancement of the peasants, the workers, the youth, and ideas — the (?four corners) of the party.

They recalled the pioneering, pace-setting, revolutionary, and historic [efforts] of the UPC in building a modern democratic nation-state and in leading it to total independence, eradicating feudalism, and ushering in a state of social and economic well-being and prosperity in the 1960s. They also hailed the role played by the party in promoting democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights. They further praised the party for bringing glory to Uganda by being a founding member of the OAU, the East African Community, the Mulungushi club, and the PTA [Preferential Trade Area]. In addition, the delegates commended party for leading Uganda into the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, the Commonwealth of Nations and the Kagera River Basin organization.

On the liberation progress, the delegates commended UPC for actively supporting anticolonial and freedom movements, especially in southern Africa, and for relentlessly fighting the fascist and murderous dictatorship of the seventies in Uganda.

On security, the meeting thanked the government for the great and commendable success it had scored in reestablishing law and order and to create throughout the country conditions of peace and tranquillity, enabling all Ugandans to freely and without fear engage in legitimate pursuits. Conscious of the existence of isolated pockets of armed political dissidents and bandits, the delegates urged the UPC government to relentlessly pursue its vigorous efforts to flush out and crush such armed dissidents and bandits. They totally rejected all calls for whatever quarters to engage in talks with such armed outlaws and bandits. They also reaffirmed the party's commitment to the policy of reconciliation and no revenge and to the resolution of political differences within the constitutional framework.

On the economy of the country, the delegates fully supported and endorsed wholeheartedly the economic and fiscal policies of the government.

National Resistance Army Issues Battle Claims

AB081310 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Nairobi, March 8 (AFP) — The opposition National Resistance Army (NRA) of Uganda killed over 400 government soldiers and captured "huge" quantities of arms in operations between last Christmas and mid-February, the army said in a statement issued here today.

The most spectacular action was a New Year's Day attack on the Kabamba school of infantry and barracks in the Mubende District west of Kampala, it said. That attack was personally led by NRA Commander Yoweri Museveni, the statement added. In that attack, the government soldiers fled before a battalion (about 600 men) which advanced on a three-kilometre front, a source close to the opposition added.

"A few enemies who tried to resist were wiped out and the entire barracks and armoury were looted. In that single exercise, over 460 rifles, mainly G-3 and AK-47, were captured," the statement said. "Huge quantities of ammunition, grenades, mortars and RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) shells were also captured, not to mention uniforms and other supplies."

The opposition source emphasised that to carry out the operation, the NRA forces had made a circuitous 160-kilometre journey from their stronghold in the so-called Luwero triangle northwest of the capital. In the words of the source, "the triangle has now become a rectangle," with the rebels extending their operations west into Kyaka District and north of the capital as far as Ngoma and into the East Mengo District.

In the course of the NRA forces' return from Kabamba, more government soldiers were killed and equipment seized as attempts to intercept them failed, the communique said. "Since then, with our reinforced military supplies, we have attacked or

repulsed many enemy battalions killing soldiers, including officers, and capturing others," it went on. Several military trucks and buses had been destroyed and two helicopters damaged, including one carrying the chief government operations commander, a Lieutenant-Colonel Ogole, whose aircraft crash-landed as a result, it said.

"The NRA wishes to inform the whole world that the military struggle in Uganda has entered a decisive phase, and the NRA is making gigantic strides," the communique concluded.

Meanwhile the ruling Uganda Peoples Congress (UPC) party, led by President Milton Obote, is expected to hold a conference in Kampala this weekend, amid speculation that a general parliamentary elections campaign could be officially declared. Mr. Obote last week named a new electoral commission.

According to a reliable source, campaigning in the countryside by the UPC and the main official opposition, the Democratic Party, is already well under way. Under Uganda's constitution, elections must be held before December.

The opposition source here said that the NRA's political wing, the National Resistance Movement [NRM], would not participate in the elections, in the belief that they could only be a "farce." The last elections, in December 1980, are said by the

opposition generally to have been rigged, and led Mr. Museveni, who had briefly served as defence minister, to go into armed opposition to the government.

However observers believe that Uganda could be entering a new political phase, with reports that the hitherto cohesive Obote government may be undergoing internal strains, and that the UPC is divided into factions.

Despite the government's public rejection of any "dialogue" with the armed opposition, Vice-President Paulo Muwanga, who is also defence minister, has been reported in the press to have had talks with the NRM.

Also, in addition to the NRA in the Baganda region, former soldiers of deposed dictator Idi Amin are reported to be extending their operations in the northern province of West Nile, thereby tying down government troops.

Observers believe that for his part Mr. Obote, sensitive about ballot-rigging claims after the last elections, badly needs to somehow recover some credibility.

BURUNDI

President Sends Condolences on Chernenko Death

EA121403 Bujumbura Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] Following the death of the Soviet leader, president of the Republic, Colonel Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, sent a message of condolences, which reads as follows:

To the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium in Moscow: I was dismayed to learn of the death of President Chernenko, the indefatigable advocate for peace in the world. On this occasion, I express to the government, to the friendly Soviet people, and to the family of the illustrious deceased, on behalf of the Burundi people, its government, and on my own behalf, deepest condolences. With highest consideration. Bujumbura, 11 March 1985.

CHAD

Habre Ready To Meet Opponents 'Anytime, Anywhere'

AB111550 Ndjamenia Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT
10 Mar 85

[Excerpts] In order to bring peace to Chad through the unity of all its sons, El Hadj Hisssein Habre, president of the Republic, chose the city of Sarh, the first leg of his tour of the country, to launch a double appeal, an appeal, first of all, to all those who agree to talk with the government that there be no preconditions to these discussions. The talks can take place anytime, anywhere. The second appeal goes to the government's opponents outside Chad. The head of state calls on all Chadian exiles to come back to the country, and gives a formal guarantee that no harm will be done to any Chadian who decides to return home to contribute their share to the reconstruction of Chad.

Thousands of inhabitants of the city of Sarh yesterday came out to welcome the head of state and to listen to the message of peace and unity he brought. For more than 2 hours the head of state stressed that it is unity and peace that will enable Chadians to cope with Libya's threat of annihilating the country. This solemn appeal made by the head of state to Chadians both inside and outside the country falls within the framework of the new approach to peace and unity that the leaders of the Third Republic have been preaching, that is, peace, unity, and the recovery by Chadians of their national sovereignty as well as the safeguard of the territorial integrity of their country. For 2 hours, the head of state tried to show the need for Chadians to unite, for it is the very basis for the survival of this country as a nation and as a people.

A part of the territory has been occupied by Libya, which has sworn to use Chad as a stepping-stone to achieve its expansionist policy. If Libyans are able to achieve military victory over Chadian territory, then it is through Chadians themselves who fan the fire of division and hate. And this will only go to benefit the terrorist regime of Tripoli. It is this message of patriotism that the head of state brought during his tour to the people of the southern part of the country and particularly in Sarh.

Today, the head of state, whose schedule for the tour of the chief town of the Moyen Chari is quite tight, will meet administrative officials, district heads, prefects, local political and military leaders; in short, the head of state will meet all the people of the area and review the problems prevailing in the country and with his interlocutors will search for the necessary solutions to them. To give more details about President Hisssein Habre's message, we call on Radio Chad's special correspondent, Dobichar:

[Begin Dobichar recording] The head of state told his audience: We must say no to Libya, and to be able to say that we must be organized and strong. This is the significance of the creation of the National Unity for Independence and Revolution, the melting-pot that unites all sons of our country. The most significant moment of the head of state's speech was the call made for peace, a peaceful call that came from the bottom of the heart. This responsible, patriotic, and fraternal call shows the importance he attaches to peace in this country. The head of state expressed his readiness to meet his (?opponents) any time, anywhere — in (?France), any place in Moyen Chari, or in any place in Chad. Any time, anywhere, El Hadj Hisssein Habre stressed, to make peace, for nothing can be achieved without peace.

President Hisssein Habre made another call to all Chadians living outside the country to return to their fatherland, for, he said, there is no place like home. He swore before the inhabitants of Sarh, the people of Moyen Chari, and the national and international communities that he guarantees the security of all those who return home. Chad needs all its sons to build a strong, independent, and proud Chad, President Hisssein Habre concluded. [end recording]

Meets Traditional Authorities

AB111605 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1230 GMT
11 Mar 85

[Text] President Hisssein Habre continues his tour of the Moyen-Chari region in southern Chad. Yesterday, the Chadian head of state met 15 village heads, the local traditional authorities of the Moyen-Chari region. The topic of their discussions is unknown but this meeting is of political importance since the village heads influence the people's acceptance or refusal of the central authority. They also informed President Hisssein Habre of the difficulties of coexistence between the local people and government soldiers in certain regions.

President Hisssein Habre's troops are fighting armed groups that are hostile to the Ndjamenia regime and create security problems in the south of the country.

Not all the local traditional authorities met President Hisssein Habre.

CONGO

Condolences to USSR; Funeral Delegation Named

AB112035 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] Soon after the announcement of the death of Comrade Chernenko, the leader of the Congolese revolution sent a condolence message to the CPSU Central Committee, to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and to the Cabinet of this friendly country. Comrade Sassou wrote in the message, and I quote:

I have just learned with deep regret of the tragic death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, CPSU general secretary, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. On behalf of the Congolese people, their party, their government, and on my own behalf, I bow in respect to the memory of the illustrious deceased, a great militant who strove throughout his life for the establishment of world peace and security of nations.

Comrade Chernenko has left us on the eve of the Geneva disarmament talks. Comrade Chernenko will remain in our minds, the party leader said, as an authentic fighter for proletarian internationalism. In these sad moments, the president of the Republic concluded, the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party renews its militant and active solidarity with the CPSU Central Committee and its feeling of friendship with the courageous Soviet people. [Words indistinct] illustrious deceased, we express our most heartfelt condolences. Highest regards.

A large delegation led by Comrade Antoine Ndinga-Oba, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, will leave Brazzaville tonight for Moscow to represent the People's Republic of Congo at the funeral of President Konstantin Chernenko on Wednesday.

GABON

France's Penne Ends Visit, Departs for Malabo

AB081750 Paris AFP in French 1440 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Libreville, 8 Mar (AFP) — Guy Penne, Francois Mitterrand's adviser on African affairs, left here today for Malabo (Equatorial Guinea), where he is expected to spend 24 hours, an authoritative source said in the Gabonese capital.

Mr Penne will today confer with Equatorial Guinean head of state Colonel Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo on various questions relative to the admission of this small central African Spanish-speaking country into the franc zone on 1 January 1985, the same source said.

The French adviser will then go to Mali where he will spend 3 days. He is expected back in Paris on Monday evening.

While in Gabon, where he arrived on 5 March, Mr Penne was given a long audience by President Omar Bongo. In addition to the issues of bilateral cooperation, the two men examined the prospects for the settlement of the Chadian conflict.

ZAIRE

Eastern Kasai Regional Governor Dismissed

AB111906 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1340 GMT 9 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, 11 Mar (AZAP) — Citizen Konde Vila Ki Kanda, governor of the Eastern Kasai Region, has been dismissed and handed over to the state commissioner for territorial administration for disciplinary action to be taken against him.

According to Citizen Ramazani Baya, state commissioner for information and mobilization, who announced this fact at the end of the Executive Council meeting, which was chaired on Friday at the Hotel du Conseil by the first state commissioner, Kengo wa Dondo, the governor of the Eastern Kasai Region is accused of serious weakness and unpardonable negligence in regard to the disturbances on 5 March 1985 in the Mupomba District, in the Kabeya Kamuanya area, subregion of Tshilenge in Eastern Kasai, by individuals at the pay of Tshisekedi.

The former governor is to be replaced by Citizen Mananga Ditoka Polo, former people's commissioner, former state commissioner for labor and social security, justice, and energy.

The Executive Council spokesman also said that order has been restored in Mupomba, a village of 250 inhabitants, and that all is calm there at the moment.

BENIN

Four New Ambassadors Present Credentials

AB082045 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT
8 Mar 85

[Summary] This morning four new ambassadors presented the letters of credence by which their respective heads of state accredit them to the People's Republic of Benin as ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary. They are His Excellency Christian Tawia Kofi Quarshie of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Koma Beavogui of the Republic of Guinea, His Excellency Callixte Hatungimana of the Republic of Rwanda, and His Excellency Ephraim Weidi Ngwilulupi Mwasakadyuka of the United Republic of Tanzania.

GHANA

Condolences to USSR; Annan To Lead Delegation

AB121432 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT
12 Mar 85

[Text] A three-man Ghana Government delegation led by a member of the Provisional National Defense Council, Mr Justice D.F. Annan, leaves Accra later today for Moscow to attend the funeral of the Soviet President Mr Konstantin Chernenko. This morning Mr Justice Annan signed the book of condolence opened at the Soviet Embassy in Accra on the death of the Soviet leader. In a message, Mr Justice Annan extended on behalf of the government and people of Ghana and on his own behalf heartfelt condolences at the loss of the Soviet leader. He described Mr Chernenko as a great leader and a man of peace.

Briefs

Envoy From Brazil Departs — The Brazilian ambassador to Ghana, Soares dos Santos, has left Accra for the United States after a 3-year tour of duty. [Excerpt] [Accra Domestic Service in English 2145 GMT 11 Mar 85 AB]

IVORY COAST

Party Leaders Call for Honest, Competent Candidates

AB111655 Paris AFP in French 0902 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Abidjan, 10 Mar (AFP) — At the end of their annual meeting in Yamoussoukro on Saturday, the general secretaries of the Democratic Party of Ivory Coast (PDCI, only party) recommended that all candidates for political office should meet the criteria "of fidelity to the party, honesty, and competence."

In a final communique read at the end of their 3-day meeting, they also called on the party's leadership "to specify the framework within which the (forthcoming) electoral campaign should be held in order to avoid denunciations, lies, and demagoguery."

Earlier, the general secretaries called on the cadres "for more rigor and more honesty in the management of public and private establishments, because Ivory Coast has no time for financial scandals." This was also emphasized on Thursday by Camille Alliali, a member of the party's Executive Bureau and minister of state. "At a time when the entire country is making sacrifices..., spotlights are being shone on affairs which justify the repeated warnings of President Houphouet-Boigny," he stated.

By speaking about "the financial scandals," the general secretaries, according to observers, have expressed the concerns of the party's leadership. Consequently, efforts by the eighth congress of the party, scheduled to take place before the end of this year, to take measures to prevent persons found guilty of misdeeds from assuming certain posts will be facilitated.

Editorial on PDCI Meeting

AB111715 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French
9-10 Mar 85 pp 1, 32

[Auguste Miremont editorial: "Give Way to Honest Citizens"]

[Text] The fourth seminar of the general secretaries of the various sectors of the PDCI [Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast], who have been meeting in Yamoussoukro since last Thursday, confirmed right away their desire to examine clearly the future, to anticipate realistically the forthcoming elections, and to discuss objectively and concretely the issues arising from these elections. This explains the reason why Minister Camille Alliali, despite the fact that he praised the general secretaries for their positive action toward strengthening national cohesion and peace within the party, did not hesitate to tell them that only those who elected them were the real judges of their behavior — their dynamism or their inefficiency, their moral rigor or their laxity. In short, the voters are the merciless judges of a 5-year "checkup" which the party's representatives will embark upon.

The message of the PDCI leadership, it seems to us, has several facets: It was a message designed to sensitize and especially to warn. It was also a call for a thorough analysis aimed at strengthening stability and national unity. Let's not forget that Ivorians are a few months away from the eighth congress of their party and from elections which, more than in 1980, will generate passions, stir up ambitions, and reopen — if they have not done so already — half-healed scars. So, there was a need for the Executive Committee to recommend a "strengthening of our national cohesion, our unity, and our solidarity in the face of adversity," to call for strict adherence to the results of the forthcoming elections, and to affirm its determination to demand a "high moral sense" of "officials at all levels" and in particular of candidates to posts within the party.

The warning from the secretary generals was unambiguous and the people will no doubt support it: Persons of dubious character, people with a checkered past, lukewarm militants, persons responsible for embezzlement, and notorious shady dealers cannot and must not claim the right to represent the party. To continue to be strong and credible, the party must rely only on responsible persons, honest militants, worthy, enthusiastic, and prepared citizens.

It is along these lines that the analysis called for by the party is necessary. How can we prevent — rightly — these "mercenaries who fear neither God nor man" from soliciting the militants' votes when Ivoirians want total democracy without hindrance? How can we keep the party cadres, who, after all, are devoted, efficient, and honorable, from becoming the helpless victims of the money powers?

The debate is important. There is no doubt that it will be followed in other places and in other spheres in the upcoming months. If it is certain that the people are capable of choosing their representatives, it is equally certain that the power of bank notes must not be ignored. Money, we know, dominated the 1980 electoral campaign. It has corrupted human relations and placed in office persons whose incompetence is equaled only by their arrogance from this success.

Moral caution from the party? Support? In what form and how? These are questions to which we must quickly respond.

But if the very notion of support and the form that it takes are questioned, we know that this eventual support will not be "given blindly or in confusion."

The future, it was noted, was the main concern of the fourth session of the party's general secretaries, who wanted to overcome all obstacles along the way between the seventh and the eighth congress and between the fifth and the sixth legislature.

The PDCI, the driving force behind democracy within a single party, would have been an irresponsible body — and would have been guilty of not respecting its philosophy or the men who have supported it and continue to support it — had the party refused, at the leader level, to scrutinize the immediate future or had it rejected any initiative to reinvigorate itself or purify public life — not through sensational trials but through improving our democratic system, which in turn will purge itself of undesirable and dubious persons.

The choice of men and the renewal of the cadres of the party and the state must be done on the basis of precise criteria; therefore, the guiding principle for the forthcoming months has been set. The party's leadership, by stating in recent days its determination not to let itself be pressed by ambitions that are harmful to national cohesion, has pointed out that it is completely in command. It has also shown its unflinching desire to be the master of the game and has confirmed that it will conduct the forthcoming elections in a disciplined and orderly fashion.

LIBERIA

New Deadline for Party Registration Set

ABI 20949 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT
12 Mar 85

[Text] Liberia's Special Elections Commission has set July the first as the deadline for the completion of the probation documents by political parties hoping to contest this year's general elections. The chairman of the commission, Mr Emmett Harmon, told newsmen in Monrovia that parties issued with certificates by the authority but which had not been cleared by the probate court in Monrovia by July the first would not participate in the elections. So far, only the National Democratic Party of Liberia, which is sponsoring Commander General Samuel Doe for the presidency, has been cleared by the probate court. Five others are still awaiting clearance.

NIGERIA

Delegation Departs Lagos for Chernenko Funeral

ABI 21312 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT
12 Mar 85

[Text] A Nigerian delegation has left Lagos for Moscow to attend the funeral of the late Soviet leader, Mr Konstantin Chernenko. The delegation is led by the minister of defense, Major General Domkat Bali. Maj Gen Bali will deliver a special message from the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, to the new Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Declares Mourning for Chernenko

MB120748 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, has declared 3 days of national mourning, which is being already observed (?in the country). This mourning period, which started at midnight today and will end on 15 March, was ordered because of the death of USSR President Konstantin Chernenko.

During the mourning period, all party and country flags should fly at half mast and all public and recreational activities are to be cancelled.

Radio Luanda will only broadcast from 0500 to 2400 and will carry special programs during the 3-day national mourning period decreed on the occasion of the death of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and USSR president.

Party Security Official Leaves for Visit to Moscow

MB120753 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Major Antonio dos Santos Neto, director of the Department of Defense and Security of the MPLA-Labor Party, yesterday left Luanda for Moscow for a visit to the USSR. A communique issued by that department says that the visit of Maj Antonio Neto is in accordance with the interparty cooperation agreement between MPLA-Labor Party and the CPSU.

UNITA Hostages To Arrive in RSA 14 Mar

MB120957 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0954 GMT 12 Mar 85

[Text] Pretoria, March 12, SAPA — The 22 American, British and Filipino captives UNITA is releasing in Angola after holding them since December, are expected to arrive at Jan Smuts airport at 2 pm on Thursday afternoon.

A spokesman for the International Red Cross in Pretoria told SABC radio news two delegates from Red Cross headquarters in Geneva had arrived in South Africa yesterday and had continued to the UNITA headquarters in southern Angola to take charge of the hostages.

The spokesman said a Hercules aircraft would leave Johannesburg on Thursday morning to fetch the captives.

UNITA on Clashes With Government Forces**3-13 Feb Actions in Lunda**

MB110940 (Clandestine) Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 11 Mar 85

[From "Review of KUP Programs"]

[Text] Following attacks carried out in the diamond Province of Lunda between 3 and 13 February, UNITA forces killed 70 enemy elements, including officers and soldiers of the MPLA People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola and 5 Cubans. Our forces also destroyed 7 vehicles and captured 106 weapons of various calibers as well as a number of important documents.

According to the same communique, UNITA forces clashed violently with MPLA forces assisted by Soviets and Cubans in Lunda Province between Xinge and Cuilo, Sombo and (Bundo), and Mona-Quimbundo and Alto Cuilo. It is worth noting that the latter was the most violent because of the high number of Cubans involved. Our forces captured one cannon, one bazooka, five RPG-7's, and five pistols.

Garrisons Overrun

MB111014 (Clandestine) Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 11 Mar 85

[From "Review of KUP Programs"]

[Text] The Mandimba and Caluca garrisons situated to the south and southeast of M'banza Congo, the capital of Zaire Province, were overrun by the UNITA armed forces on 13 and 14 February. This was revealed by the general staff of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola. Following the attacks, 40 MPLA elements were killed, including 4 officers from the tanks and transport company of the 1st military region, and 44 weapons of various calibers captured.

Also according to the FALA general staff, in attacks against the MPLA garrisons in Queve, Huambo Province, on 2 and 13 February, UNITA forces killed 50 MPLA soldiers, including the deputy commissar of Vila Nova, captured 3 members of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, including Cadet (Candido Kizumba), destroyed 3 vehicles, and captured 29 weapons of various calibers as well as a large quantity of ammunition.

15-28 Feb Military Campaign

MB081306 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa 1200 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 8 Mar (KUP) — The balance of UNITA political military activities: From 15 to 28 February 1985, UNITA carried out an active military campaign against MPLA military forces supported by Cubans and SWAPO. Here are the results:

FAPLA members killed 367
FAPLA members captured 13
Cubans killed 21
weapons captured 521
ammunition captured 179,430
vehicles destroyed 18
railway-locomotive destroyed 1
helicopters shot down, Mi-8 1
people liberated 21,000

Unita's losses
dead 8
wounded 29
missing 2
weapons lost 1

15-27 Feb Moxico Attacks

MB080635 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 0600 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 8 Mar (KUP) — Following attacks carried out along the Luacano-Mucussueje and Luena-Dala roads in Moxico Province between 15 and 27 February 1985, UNITA forces inflicted heavy losses on the MPLA People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola, killing 56 of their soldiers and destroying 1 armored car and 12 military trucks.

COMOROS**President Sends Condolence Message to USSR**

EA121411 Moroni Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Soviet Leader, Konstantin Chernenko, died in Moscow yesterday at the age of 73.

After the official announcement of Chernenko's death, the president of the Republic sent the following message of condolences to the Supreme Soviet Presidium. Here is the text of the message of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane:

It is with sorrow that we have just learned the distressing news of the death of Comrade Konstantin Chernenko. It is so (?depressing) to lose such a one who, throughout his life, worked hard towards safeguarding peace.

This cruel bereavement does not affect the USSR alone but also the majority of mankind, particularly in the Third World.

On behalf of the Comoran people, its government, and on my own behalf, we express to you our deepest condolences and our sympathy to the Soviet people. High regards.

Abdallah Abderemane, president of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros.

LESOTHO**Condolence Messages Sent on Chernenko Death**

MB111811 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] His majesty the king and the right honorable prime minister have sent messages of condolences to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Soviet people on the death of President Chernenko.

MOZAMBIQUE**Party Official on Need for Vigilance, Peace in Region**

MB101200 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 10 Mar 85

[Text] Jorge Rebelo, the first secretary of the Frelimo Party in Maputo city, has reaffirmed the need for all Mozambican people to be continuously ready for the struggle against armed banditry. Jorge Rebelo was speaking yesterday during the conclusion of the second self-defense course, which was attended by workers from enterprises and institutions of Maputo city. He said that the struggle against the armed bandits is nearing an end, but, in his words, we must always be ready to oppose any enemy action threatening our sovereignty.

He added that tranquillity and peace in our region will only be achieved when the apartheid system is eradicated.

Jorge Rebelo also spoke of the international condemnation of South Africa for its nonimplementation of the Nkomati Accord, and referred to the decision of the five Portuguese-speaking African countries and the Frontline States to grant greater support to our country.

NAMIBIA**Damara Council, 'SWAPO-Aligned' Faction Hold Talks**

MB081021 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1017 GMT 8 Mar 85

[Text] Windhoek, March 8, SAPA — Spokesmen for the Damara Council and a SWAPO-aligned faction of the SWA National Union [SWANU] have confirmed that delegations of the two parties had spent the past week in Zambia. According to a SWABC report in Windhoek today, the spokesmen said talks had been held with Zambian Government officials and a number of political parties.

The Damara Council delegation was led by its chairman, Mr Justus Garoeb, who is also chairman of the executive committee of the Damara administration. The SWANU group was led by Mr Kuzeeko Kanguechi.

Although details of the talks were not disclosed, the Damara Council had stated in the past that it wanted to improve its ties with SWAPO.

SOUTH AFRICA

President Botha on Death of Soviet Leader

MB111937 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Text] South Africa's state president, Mr P.W. Botha, has expressed the hope in Cape Town that the new leadership in the Soviet Union will make a serious and sincere effort to make the world a more secure place. In his reaction to the death of President Chernenko, Mr Botha said he hoped that the new generation of leaders in the Soviet Union would leave South Africa in peace, and would give them the opportunity to handle the problems in the area without involving southern Africa in the rivalry between the superpowers.

Johannesburg on Nkomati Problems, Alternatives

MB111640 Johannesburg International Service in English
1500 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Station commentary: "The Nkomati Accord"]

[Text] The date 16 March will mark the first anniversary of the signing of the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique, and there are still some difficulties involved in the accord. One of the main ones is that there is no peace yet in Mozambique, and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement, Renamo, is continuing with its violence.

As far Mozambique is concerned, this situation is a threat to the credibility of the Nkomati Accord. As far as the South African Government is concerned, this is a situation which it is finding extremely difficult to do anything about. That the South African Government is today at loggerheads with Renamo is evident. South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha has even accused Renamo of personally insulting him.

Because of the value the South African Government attaches to the Nkomati Accord, it is also obvious that it does not give, nor does it condone, support to Renamo. Certainly, therefore, any unofficial support which may be reaching Renamo from South Africa is frowned on by the South African Government.

Yet the Nkomati Accord does not consist only of security agreement, important though they may be. There have been other spin-offs for Mozambique. For example, at least the South African and Mozambique Governments are in direct contact with each other, and problems can be discussed. Rail traffic between South Africa and Maputo has increased, despite the security problems. Foreign investors have shown that they now

have a greater interest in Mozambique. The United States has lifted its trade ban, and relations between the Americans and Mozambique are better than they ever were before. Generally speaking, on the economic front Western countries are known to have more confidence in Mozambique, because of its commitment to regional economic cooperation.

The alternative to Nkomati is dismal. It would mean a return to confrontation between South Africa and Mozambique, and would resolve none of Mozambique's problems, and create many for South Africa. There are rumors in South Africa that Mozambique might call in the help of the Soviet Union and its Cuban surrogate forces. Had the Cubans resolved the problems in Angola, this might have been a good idea. In fact, the war in Angola is worse today than it ever was, and the Cubans have caused a total polarization among the Angolan people.

Right now, it seems that the best that can happen is increased negotiations between South Africa and Mozambique, with both sides exercising patience.

Johannesburg on Conflicting Demands for Change

MB110750 Johannesburg International Service in English
0630 GMT 11 Mar 85

[Station commentary: "The Demandz Made on South Africa"]

[Text] South Africa is subject daily to demands and advice from those, both internally and externally, who believe that they know best how to resolve the country's problems.

External pressure is brought to bear by organizations and individuals, each with their own prescription and reason for wanting to see it implemented. There is the ANC and the Pan-Africanist Congress, which are totally opposed to each other. Both use terrorism to underline their demands. There is the South African Communist Party, which obviously has the same prescription for South Africa as the Soviet Union. Then there is the United Nations and its (?welter) of committees and pressure groups, and, on the other side of the spectrum, the Reagan administration with its policy of constructive engagement. Then there are the Donald Andersons and Edward Kennedys of this world. All of them want to see a general [word indistinct] of change in South Africa.

Internally, the situation is no less confusing. What Inkatha wants is not the same as the demands made by the United Democratic Front [UDF]. What the UDF wants is opposed by the Azanian People's Organization. The independent blacks states want to do their thing, and from the multitude of opposition parties in the new 3-chamber Parliament there is a chorus of conflicting views on what is right and wrong in the country and what should and should not be done about it.

It is for this reason that President P.W. Botha has stressed two important things in recent statements. South Africa welcomes constructive criticism, provided it is based on a reasonable knowledge of the facts, and the government is willing to consult with all leaders inside the country who reject violence as a means of achieving political goals.

It is clear that neither South Africa's friends nor critics abroad have the answer to the country's problems. The American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, who has been most intimately involved with South Africa, conceded this recently when he said the United States did not have a blueprint for easily solving South Africa's complex racial situation.

It is clear, therefore, that South Africans alone will map out their own future. What is needed from outside is recognition of substantial advances already made along the road of political reform and support and for those in the pipeline. The overriding demand internally is for a climate of calm and goodwill which will allow the continuance of peaceful negotiations towards a better future for all South Africa's peoples.

ANC, SWAPO Leaders Call for RSA Oil Embargo

MB080931 Lusaka Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1700 GMT 7 Mar 85

[Text] The ANC and SWAPO of Namibia have jointly made an appeal to the international community for an oil embargo against racist South Africa. (?The appeal) was made this morning at a press conference in Lusaka (?held in the Namibian Institute). [passage indistinct]

The president of the ANC [words indistinct] the international community take action against South Africa, adding that such an embargo would [words indistinct] Namibia's independence and eliminate [words indistinct]. He said that it was quite obvious [words indistinct] depended largely upon [words indistinct] oil supplies in its efforts to carry [words indistinct].

During the appeal for an oil embargo against South Africa, SWAPO president, Comrade Sam Nujoma, said in December 1979 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for an oil embargo against South Africa, as part of the international campaign of sanctions against the Pretoria regime, and in support of [words indistinct] Pretoria would continue to need oil [words indistinct].

Now we are going to present Comrade (?Oliver Tambo's) appeal [words indistinct] oil embargo against South Africa:

[Begin Tambo recording] We hope to call on the international community to support our efforts by imposing economic sanctions against apartheid South Africa. The appeal we are about to launch here is part and parcel of that campaign [words indistinct] which has already resulted in the loss of many lives. We are convinced that economic sanctions can be made to work. We address ourselves to a world, which has already condemned apartheid as a crime against humanity, to do more than just condemn. [passage indistinct]

Together with the appeal, we are releasing a list that clearly demonstrates that oil and petroleum products constitute one of the most essential ingredients for the continued operation of the apartheid regime [words indistinct]. South Africa will continue to depend for over 60 percent of her oil needs on foreign supplies. [Words indistinct] got to use forms of energy. The apartheid

economy is taking a [words indistinct] to meet that oil need. (?I) quote from a report issued by the advocate general [words indistinct] as a further incentive to international oil companies to supply their subsidiaries in South Africa with crude oil [words indistinct] \$8 per barrel of crude oil [words indistinct] for each barrel of crude oil imported by a company, \$8 per barrel, adjusted in terms of oil quality as repaid to the company, unquote.

By 1984 [word indistinct], South Africa's foreign debt was (?effectively) at \$17,000 million. On the paper distributed to you, you will be able to see clearly how South Africa has managed to weather the storm with the help of foreign investors, (?transfer technology), foreign oil suppliers, and oil carriers acting in gross violation of the UN resolution adopted by their own governments. We say that the supply of oil to South Africa must be stopped, and can be stopped.

The peoples of the various countries have brought enough pressure to ensure that their governments do not turn a blind eye to the activities of their nationals in fueling the continued [words indistinct] institutionalized racism and majority oppression. Hence, in South Africa it is a crime punishable by 7 years in prison to reveal [word indistinct] information related to performance, [word indistinct] storage, consumption, or any other matter affecting the oil and petroleum industry. [end recording]

That was Comrade President Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC, launching a worldwide campaign for an oil embargo on South Africa. The campaign is being launched jointly by the ANC and SWAPO of Namibia [words indistinct]. Comrade Sam Nujoma [words indistinct].

[Begin Nujoma recording] The strategic importance of oil and petroleum products for Pretoria's military capacity cannot be overemphasized. Oil is a key factor in the racist regime's illegal occupation of Namibia, and its acts of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola and the other neighboring states, and in the terror [words indistinct] against the peoples of South Africa. And at the same time, it is an (?incontestable) fact that the apartheid regime is vulnerable to an oil embargo. It is, and will remain, dependent on international sources and assistance for a significant part of its liquid fuel needs.

Rather than meet the demands of our people (?to express some humility), the apartheid regime is today embarked in an attempt to [word indistinct] the apartheid system on so-called constitutional reform, and they continue to seek new ways to consolidate colonial domination over the people of Namibia. However, the people of South Africa and Namibia, who have for decades engaged in a life and death struggle to liberate their own country from colonial rule and apartheid domination, remain ever committed to genuine liberation and (?freedom). The (?focus) of this noble goal is the popular resistance their countries continue to escalate and [words indistinct] apartheid regime [words indistinct].

Now is the time for all men and women [words indistinct]. And now, the millions of oppressed and struggling peoples in South Africa and Namibia, we appeal to those who have in their power [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Further Tambo Comments

*MB082030 Lusaka Radio Freedom in English to South Africa
1700 GMT 8 Mar 85*

[Text] The ANC and SWAPO of Namibia yesterday called on the international community to strengthen the oil embargo against (racist South Africa). Speaking at a joint press conference in the (afternoon) here in Lusaka, SWAPO and the ANC presidents expressed concern at the deteriorating political situation in Southern Africa.

The two presidents were asked the question by one Radio Freedom journalist: What role does the international labor movement play in seeing to it that the oil embargo and other sanctions against the hated apartheid regime become a success, and this is what the ANC president said:

[Begin Tambo recording] I have this appeal addressed to government, nongovernmental organizations, parliamentarians around the world, to the international trade union movement, the churches, student organizations, women's organizations, various associations, national, regional, and international, in all the countries that we mentioned in our opening statement.

We do not think it is a light, easy undertaking. The question of sanctions against South Africa is an old one. There has been resistance to it by those who have interests in the exploitative system of apartheid, but we do not give up the fight. Today, as part of this sanctions offensive, we are making this special appeal to the international community in its various formations. We expect sabotage out of some governments, especially the allies of the regime, exactly because they benefit so much from this crime against humanity.

We also expect that the people in these countries will dictate policy to their respective governments, that they will deal with the nationals who are involved in any way, either by way of selling oil to South Africa, transporting it, helping South Africa to (trade). We believe that this campaign will go a long way towards bringing pressure on South Africa in terms of an actually effective embargo, in spite of the fact that we can expect numerous devices and [word indistinct] in order to defeat this attempt at peaceful resolution of the problems of this region.

We think that the trade unions have a particularly important role to play. Every national, every multinational lives and exists on workers. Every piece of technology that is sent to South Africa is conveyed there by workers. It is workers who go, it is workers who load the oil and transport it. We think it is possible that the world feels as we do, feels that this regime can be stopped, and is determined to do so. We think it is possible that in the fullness of time, this appeal will be counted among those which were responded to very enthusiastically.

We think that, if Western Europe especially, and the rest of the world, can try and measure up to the great campaigns that are being waged by the people in the United States, from all sectors and classes of the population, if (they) can be inspired by this appeal, then South Africa will surely run into serious trouble with its apartheid system.

And this is a peaceful method. We are not saying here, in all fairness [words indistinct], but we feel that this is in aid of the speedy solution of the apartheid system, a means to help the South African regime to make up its mind that our people and humanity cannot live with these crimes any longer, and we make the appeal in the confidence that the world is with us in our struggle, not by way of declarations and condemnations only, but in terms of action. And we are offering a mode of action which we say will help our struggle forward, and may even bring down the system of apartheid, and set the people of Namibia free, and set the people of South Africa free. [end recording]

That was Comrade Oliver Tambo [words indistinct]. Meanwhile, SWAPO President Sam Nujoma said the strategic importance of oil and petroleum products for Pretoria's military capacity could not be overemphasized. He went on to say that oil is a key factor in the racist regime's illegal occupation of Namibia, in the acts of aggression against neighboring states, and in the terror and repression against the people of South Africa.

He said it was an incontestable fact that the apartheid regime was vulnerable to an oil embargo, as it was dependent on international sources and assistance for a significant part of its liquid fuel needs.

In a joint statement, the two presidents [words indistinct] and stop the continued oppression [words indistinct] for men, women, and children of South Africa and Namibia.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Sends Condolences to USSR, Declares Mourning
*MB111831 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] President Kaunda has described the death of Konstantin Chernenko as a great loss to both the Soviet Union and the world. In a message of condolence to the Soviet Presidium and Politburo, President Kaunda said he learned with deep shock and sorrow of the sudden death of President Chernenko. He said the late president was a man who was committed to human dignity and to the right of all people to self-determination and national independence, especially in the case of Namibia and South Africa, whose liberation struggle the Soviets supported to the hilt.

Dr Kaunda said President Chernenko was able, during his brief term of office, to enhance international awareness to the escalating threat of global peace and security.

Meanwhile, President Kaunda declared a 2-day period of national mourning in Zambia, beginning at 0600 tomorrow until 1800 on Wednesday. During the period of national mourning, Radio and Television Zambia will play solemn music, instead of scheduled programs. All activities of an entertaining nature have been cancelled during the period of national mourning.

Information Agreement Signed With DPRK

*MB111855 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT
11 Mar 85*

[Text] Zambia and the DPRK today signed an agreement for the exchange of information between the two countries. The minister of information and broadcasting services, Cosmas Chibanda, signed on behalf of the Zambian Government, while the Korean ambassador to Zambia, (Kim Tong-hwa), signed for his country.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Mr Chibanda said it was his ministry's belief that the agreement would bring more cooperation between Zambian and Korean journalists.

Mr (Kim) said the communication cooperation agreement would contribute to the strengthening of relations between the two countries.

ZIMBABWE**Defense Minister Gives Party for DPRK Officers**

*MB120658 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT
12 Mar 85*

[Text] The minister of defense last night held a farewell party at a city hotel in Harare for three Korean military officers. The officers were in Zimbabwe training some national Army troops who man the 20 armed personnel carriers donated to the country by the DPRK. Speaking on the occasion, the permanent secretary in the ministry, Comrade Chitauo, said he hoped the lessons taught would be put to good use by the recipients in assisting to raise the Army's military efficiency. Comrade Chitauo said the donation of the 20 vehicles and the training of the Fifth Brigade personnel, the militia force, and the presidential guards, have been a testimony to the strong bonds of solidarity which exist between the two countries.